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official magazine

ISSUE 8

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## ADELAIDE UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

***– formed 2003 –***

| | |
|---|---|
| **Headquarters** | South Australian Soccer Federation<br>4a Manton St<br>Hindmarsh SA 5016 |
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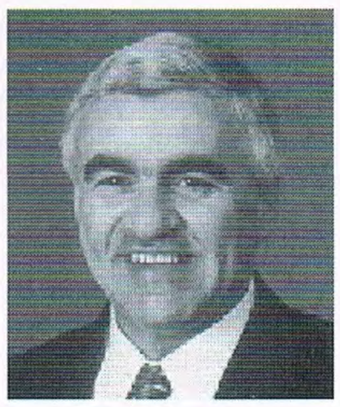
| **Web** | www.adelaideunited.com.au |
| **Home Ground** | Hindmarsh Stadium<br>Holden Street, Hindmarsh |
| **Phone** | (08) 8241 7122 |
| **Capacity** | 15 200 (all seated) |
| **Patron** | Gordon Pickard AM |
| **President** | Basil Scarsella AM |
| **Administration** | Sam Ciccarello<br>Liz Davison |
| **Media/Marketing** | Angelo Picca |
| **Marketing Services** | Alison Papas |
| **Football Manager** | John Perin |
| **Team Manager** | Orazio Di Carlo |
| **Head Coach** | John Kosmina |
| **Assistant Coach** | Aurelio Vidmar |
| **Captain** | Aurelio Vidmar |

*Front cover:* **Aaron Goulding** against Sydney Olympic

## from the prez



Happy 2004 to everyone and welcome to Adelaide United's first home game for the year against Newcastle United.

John Kosmina and the boys finished 2003 in great fashion and the team should be proud with what they have achieved in first half of the season.

The challenge now is for the performance thus far to be repeated in the second half.

If that happens, Adelaide United will play-off in the finals, which would cap off an excellent first season in the league.

As the January player transfer window opens, there has been a lot of speculation as to whether the club will enter the transfer market in a major way to bring players from interstate or overseas.

The simple answer to that question is no. Adelaide United will not be seeking to sign players from interstate or overseas during January.

One of Adelaide United's major objectives when it was established was to represent South Australia and give our local talent an opportunity to represent the club in the National Soccer League.

In simple terms, we will strive to have all young South Australian soccer players aspiring to play for Adelaide United and supporting it.

This objective will only be realised if we are loyal to our youth and only import players when they are significantly better than what is available locally.

Adelaide United is "the people's team" and our words must be supported by our actions.

I hope you enjoy the game and thank you for supporting Adelaide United.

**BASIL SCARSELLA**
President
Adelaide United Football Club

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# ADELAIDEUNITED**MERCHANDISE**

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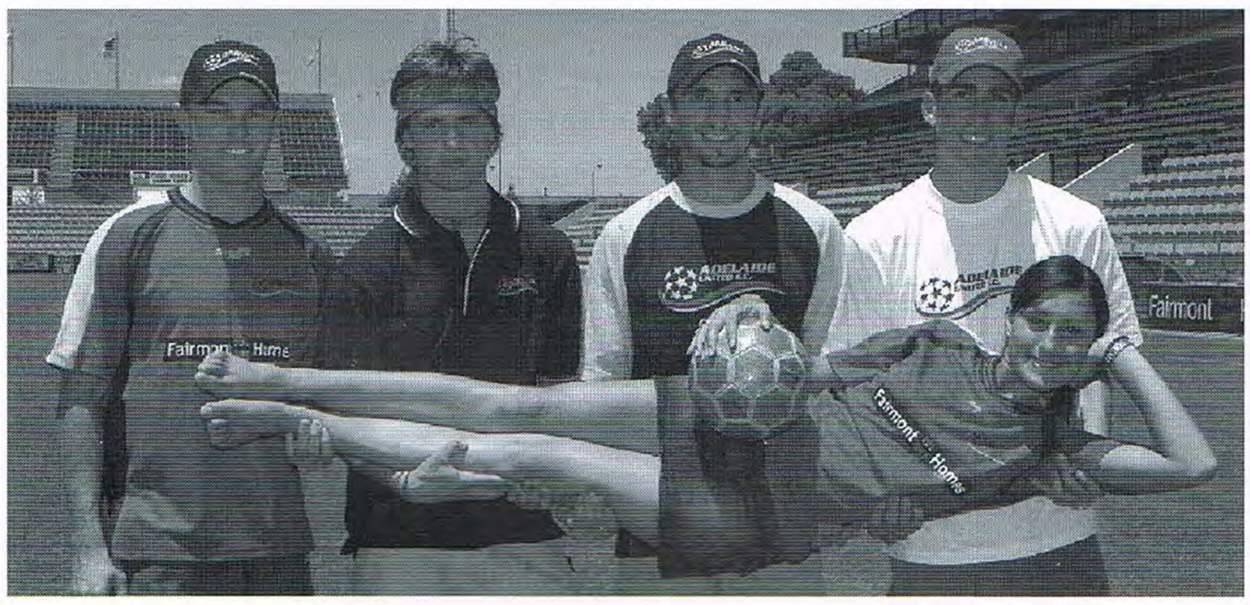
**scarf $30** **flag $15**

**polo shirt** (blue) **$50**

**bucket hat** (red) **$20**

**soccer ball** (white) **$15**



**adult's t–shirt** (blue, red sleeves) **$30**
**soccer ball** (red) **$25**

**aufc home strip** (red, blue/gold trim) **$90**

**adult's t–shirt** (blue, gold sleeves) **$30**
**adult's t–shirt** (white) **$20** **cap** (blue or red) **$20**

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## from the coach

Welcome back to Hindmarsh for our first home game of the New Year. I am writing this piece before heading off to Brisbane for our first game of 2004 after the bye last weekend and to be honest I am heading off with some trepidation. Personally I would have preferred to have played to keep the momentum up. As much as the players needed a rest we were playing well and generating success because of the rhythm we were in. Given we had the bye I chose to give the boys some time off to refresh physically and more importantly mentally and hopefully pick up again not far from where we left off two weeks ago. Brisbane is a difficult place to play this time of year because of the humidity so with any luck our short sabbatical will have stood us in good stead for the game. Bye now we'll all know the result and all have an opinion about that result. Whatever the outcome we'll never know if my decision was right or wrong. The same outcome could have occurred if we had trained and that is what makes life interesting - that in this particular situation we'll never really know if the break had an effect. We can only surmise.

Speaking of decision making a good part of the success pre New Year can be put down to good decision making by the players. As a coach I can't make decisions on behalf of the players. I can give them advice, my opinion based on experience, regarding situations during a game where a quick decision needs to be made but in the end the final decision becomes their responsibility and theirs alone. The decision making of the players as individuals and as a team has been good, hence some good results. The response of the team to the decision making of individuals has been even better = teamwork. A key ingredient for success!

The Adelaide United family has grown in recent weeks on and off the field. Freddy Agius, one of the most naturally talented players I've ever seen has joined the playing ranks and the Alagich and Aloisi families have new additions as well. Ross and Richie, who coincidentally room together on away trips will now, no doubt be spending their time in the hotel talking about nappies and bottles and all that baby stuff. Whatever the case the fact I can refer to our United family makes this a nice place to be.

Go United,

**Kossie**

## from the captain

Happy New Year to all our supporters. No one could have predicted 2003's amazing turn around of the image of soccer in South Australia by the birth of our great new club Adelaide United. 2004 promises to be just as exciting with a potential finals campaign in our sights.

But let's not get too carried away with that yet. There's some serious work to do, starting with tonight's encounter with a tough Newcastle United. My contribution has been written prior to our mid week match against Brisbane Strikers, and I am anticipating a result up there to continue our forward momentum. Our boys must continue to work professionally to get the desired results to make the finals.

Kossie has again been smart with our work load throughout the Christmas/New Year period. Following our unusually heavy schedule of matches leading up to Christmas, we were given four days off, then straight back into a few heavy sessions. Our work load then tapers off in the lead up to a match. He always makes sure we feel as fit and fresh as possible on match day.

Our first training session after our New Years break was a tough work-out at Brighton beach, followed by a team BBQ and cricket match. Many thanks to **Peter** and **Tony Blazincic** for organising the event - it was a fulfilling day, physically and socially.

We thank the fans for supporting us through our heavy schedule in the lead up to Christmas. Our attendances have been fantastic, particularly during a time of year when attendances have been well down in the past. But it's not only the attendance figures that are great, it's the noise that you guys make that pushes us a tiny bit further. The players get an amazing boost when we look up to The Stand behind the goals, and see the red sea making heaps of noise.

Another positive for AUFC is the signing of Fred Agius. Fred is an exciting prospect for the club, a natural left footer who will do well when given the opportunity.

See you after the game

**Aurelio Vidmar**


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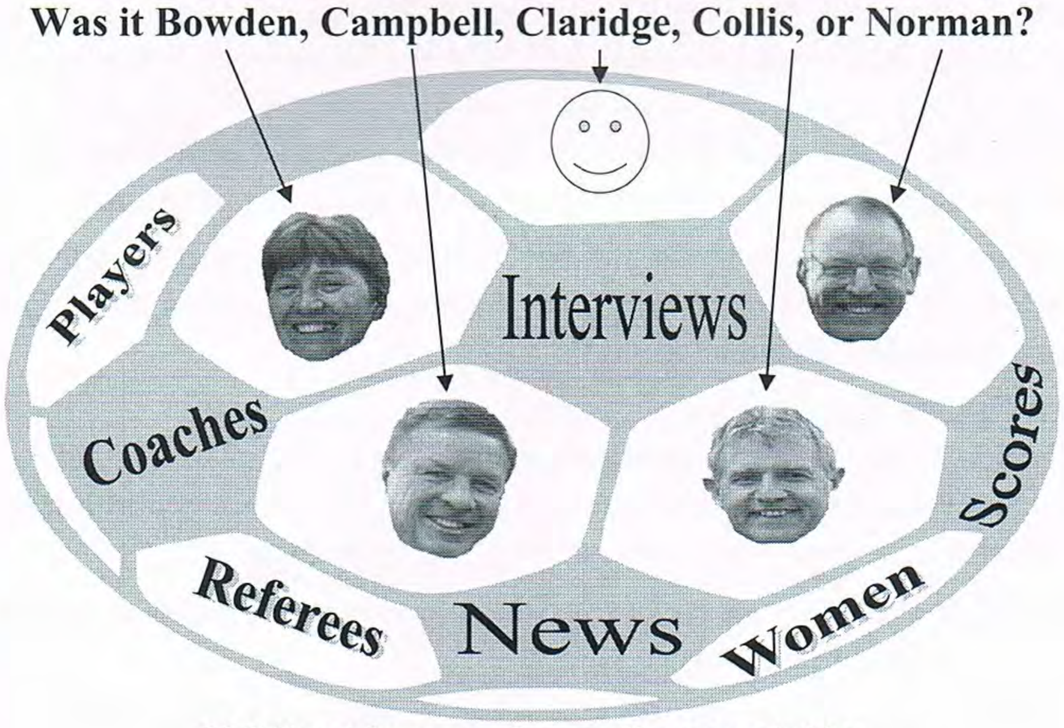
***Who sat on the ball?***
**Was it Bowden, Campbell, Claridge, Collis, or Norman?**

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# · marketing · publicity · promotions · communications

*Angelo Picca*

Well, at the half way mark of season it is timely to revisit just what we have achieved in terms of marketing the Adelaide United Football Club. Also, it is a good time to put on our thinking cap to assess our current position and ascertain whether we can better manage the processes we initially put in place. Firstly, it is important to recall what we have achieved.

### *Current status/achievements in 2003*

AUFC has established and positioned itself in the Adelaide marketplace very quickly and is now well supported in terms of general interest outside of Hindmarsh Stadium and gate attendances. So far, AUFC has:

· initiated **affordable ticketing** and promoted accordingly to encourage soccer fans to attend but also to make the product and event accessible to other sporting fans and to all South Australian fans in general;

· changed the poor **perception** of the code of soccer in South Australia and turned it around to encourage people to believe in the new product and brand presented at each home game at Hindmarsh Stadium;

· made **strategic decisions** and consequently fast-tracked change for the betterment of the game;

· initiated the team strip adopting the traditional **colours** of the State so as to create an immediate affinity and mass appeal with SA fans;

· created a fresh new **logo** like no other in the league and created a new product and brand for the South Australian and Australian market place;

· registered a new name, the **Adelaide United Football Club**, which is relative to all South Australians but also is relative to the past, the present status and the future direction of the club;

· established a new relationship with the **Government** of South Australia and a healthy status regarding the lease of Hindmarsh Stadium;

· initiated a **marketing plan** to bring back all of the corporate world and commercial partners that had previously divorced themselves from soccer - some of these sponsors had disappeared and kept away from the game as far back as 10 years ago;

· enjoyed a good rapport with the mainstream **media** and the feel and fresh new look of the club has enthused even the non-soccer sports presenters on television, radio and print media.

After seven home games at Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide United has attracted 86,499 fans through the gates – just 13,501 short of the **100,000** milestone – averaging 12,357 fans per game. The Club is sitting on top of the NSL's ladder of average home crowds.

Adelaide United has established good links with all of the SA soccer family, including the **SA Futsal Association**, **SA Womens Soccer Association**, **SA Amateur League**, **SA Premier & State Leagues** and the **SA Junior Soccer Association**. In excess of 30,000 registered players from these associations were not attending NSL matches. AUFC has established a fresh start with these organizations and now is well positioned to move forward to other sporting organizations.

In terms of popularity in the South Australian sports market, Adelaide United is positioned third only after the **Adelaide Crows** (first) and **Port Adelaide Power** (second).

### *The Future for United*

Adelaide United's aim is **retention**. This means that United will focus on retaining the corporate and commercial partners and initiate strategies to procure new sponsors for next season, by:

· retaining the **current ticket holders** and building on next season from the current position;

· continuing to initiate surveys to ascertain **what our fans want**;

· maintaining healthy relationships with the **media**

· reassessing the way we operate to **continuously improve**;

· meeting regularly with the **stakeholders** (ie soccer community), to ensure that they have a say in the future direction of the club;

· ensuring that players are actively involved in **promotions and publicity** to continue to build profile with more interviews with the electronic and print media;

· ensuring that players are actively involved with **community and charitable organizations**;

· stepping up the **advertising** campaigns with the current commercial partners to maintain awareness and profile of the Adelaide United brand.

### *Merchandise – Adelaide United products*

In conjunction with our commercial partnership and association with the brand **Sekem**, the Adelaide United merchandise has been one of the success stories for the club with many kids and families purchasing items to wear on match day, and buying for birthdays and Christmas presents. United scarves and other stylish items are now priceless not only for United fans but also popular with new fans attending NSL for the first time.

**Sam Parkinson**, from **Parkinson Blunden**, is the sole agent for all products. Sam was overwhelmed with the amount of interest (not forgetting the sales) from day one when the merchandise was officially launched in the inaugural match against Brisbane Strikers on that memorable night of October 17, 2003.

A variety of merchandise is available from two merchandising booths at Hindmarsh Stadium. The booths are located under the Western stand and the behind the Eastern stand.

AUFC merchandise is also available from the following outlets:
**· Bailetti Sports · South Road Sports · Campbelltown Sports · Rowe & Jarman (5 Stores) · Roberts and Jarman · Sportscentre · Sportspower Stores (Elizabeth, Newton and Glenelg)**

### *Shoot for Goal comp*

Sponsored by **Athans Travel**, the shoot for goal competition - where contestants attempt to kick a 'goal' in a golf-like competition, with three kicks from one end of the pitch - continues in tonight's match. Winners receive a return trip with the Adelaide United team to an away game (suitable to both parties) travelling with the team and staying at same hotel, courtesy of **Athans Travel**. Congratulations to the two winners so far, **Robbie Thornton** and **Christian Vardicchio**. There were no winners in the last match against Melbourne Knights. Four new competitors will be selected at tonight's match.

### *100, 000th fan to attend an Adelaide United NSL match*

Adelaide United needs to attract 13,501 fans to tonight's game to reach the major milestone of **100,000** attendees so far for the season. The lucky 100,000th person to walk through the gates for the season will win return airfares and accommodation to England to see their favourite team in action. Three people will be positioned at each of the entry gates tonight to audit the gates to select the winner.

If the 100,000 figure is not reached tonight, watch for details on **Channel 7** when the Adelaide United advertisement is shown in the lead up to the next game, currently scheduled to be against Marconi Stallions, Friday 23rd January 2004, 7.30pm kick-off.

### *Promotions/Publicity*

AUFC United has been very active with visitations to shopping centres, the City of Adelaide and regular training visits to local State and Premier League Clubs. The visits are part of our promotional strategies – part of our successful formula. We will continue with this strategy with forthcoming visits to the northern and southern regions of Adelaide. **Westfield Marion**, **Hollywood Plaza**, **Westfield Arndale** and **West Lakes Shopping Centre** have been confirmed for upcoming visits.

### *Community Involvement*

Tonight's Curtain raiser match has been organised in conjunction with the **Qantas Airlines** staff and **Virgin Blue Airlines** to raise money for the **Childhood Cancer Foundation**. Warm thanks to **Arthur Floros** from Virgin Blue and **Cathy Johnson** from the **Childhood Cancer Association** for their assistance in coordinating this event. There are CCA staff at each point of entry for a gold coin donation, please give generously. Thank you in anticipation.

**Angelo Picca**
Marketing/Media Manager
Adelaide United FC


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## *congratulations!*

To **Lisa** and **Ross Aloisi,** who gave birth to a beautiful 3.9 kg baby girl, **Gabriella**, last Monday at 9.14pm.

Best wishes Lisa, Ross and Gabriella from everyone at Adelaide United.

ADELAIDE UNITED F.C.

Meanwhile, as reported in the last issue of info.united, the newly-born **Ethan Alagich**, son of **Melissa** and **Richie Alagich**, is doing well.

## really bend it like beckham

The **David Beckham Soccer Clinic**, promoted via **Channel 7's** *Today Tonight* program, saw kids aged between 9 and 13 entering the clinic competition.

The competition selects one boy and one girl from Australia to attend the David Beckham Soccer Clinic in Madrid, January 2004. They join 18 other children from around the world.

To find the two Australian entrants, Channel 7 held a clinic in each state. The boys and girls were assessed on a range of skills - kicking, crossing, dribbling, heading etc. South Australia's clinic was held at Hindmarsh Stadium last Monday.

Our winners were **Anthony Sharkawi** and **Angela Fimmano**, who both flew out to Sydney for the national clinic on Friday. Well done Anthony and Angela!!

Thanks to all our other contestants: Alex Capel, Jordon Elsey, Dion Gazettas, Lane Chapman, Kosta Mantis, Blake Harward, Dion Kirk, James Lean, Katie Esca, Ceryce Guerra, Kayllan Wilson and Rachael Quigley.

From the national clinic, one lucky boy and girl will be selected by Frank Farina to attend the Beckham Clinic.

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*with Alison Papas*

## nick budin

**now that you are in your third NSL season – how do you think you have progressed as a player?**
I feel that I have become a lot more confident on the ball and I can read the game a lot game better now.

**besides being on field, what are the most enjoyable aspects of being involved with Adelaide United?**
The most enjoyable aspects are being apart of a team that is so widely supported in South Australia and that is made up of such great people.

**after being injured at the beginning of the season, you've recovered to play a prominent role in the team... what are your individual and team ambitions for the season?**
Individually I would like to be a regular and consistent player in the team, and as a team I hope we can have a successful year, and even win the grand final in April!

**when you are not playing or training – what are you usually doing?**
Working at my video store- "Blockbuster Northgate" or at home with Bianca and Bailey (my dog).

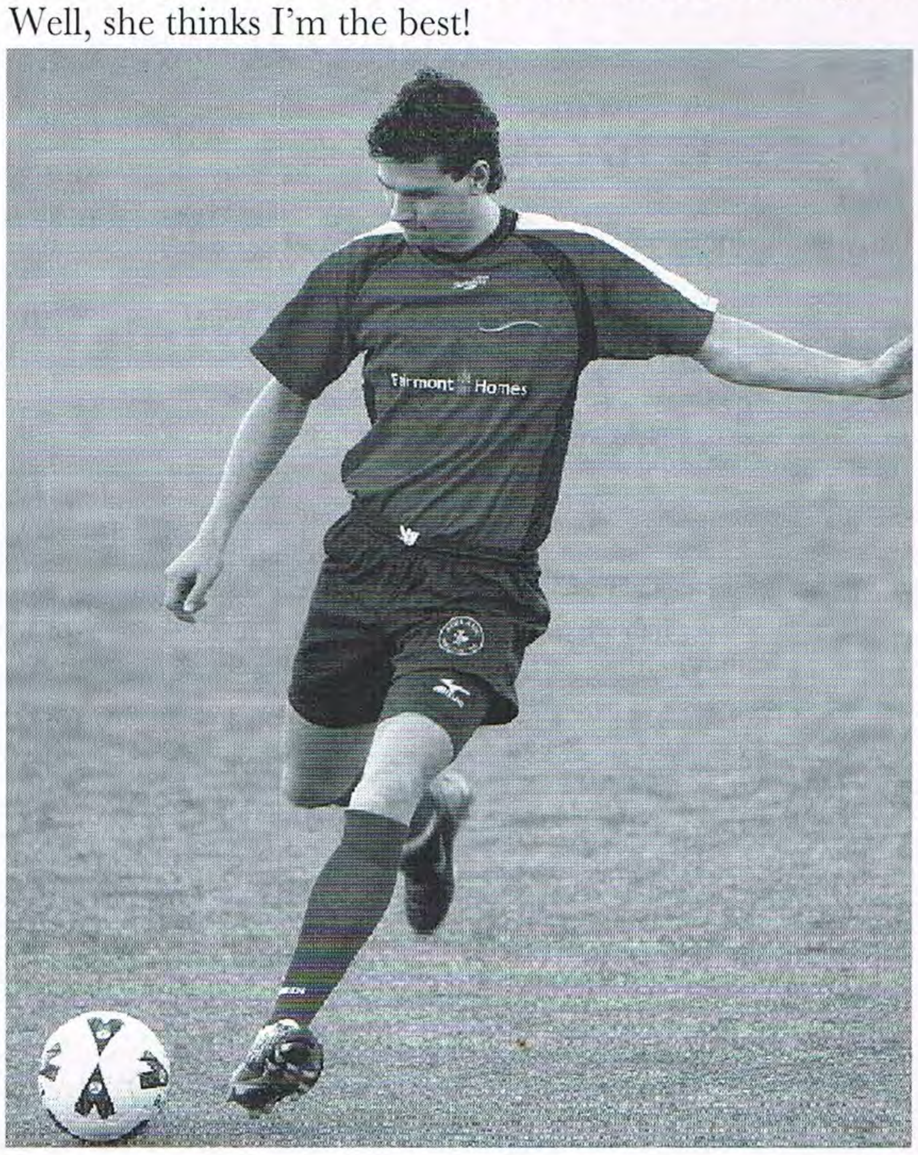
**does playing professional sport put limitations on any other areas of your life?**
Of course! But I still enjoy myself with my family and friends, I just wait till the end of season for any serious partying and that sort of stuff.

**what do you think is your greatest strength as a soccer player and why?**
I like to think that my greatest strength is that I am a hard worker. I always put everything I've got into each challenge during a game.

**if you weren't playing soccer for adelaide united – what do you think you would be doing?**
I think I would still be working full-time at my video store, but I would also have a lot of spare time that I would use surfing and jet skiing.

**how do you think the other players would describe you?**
I'm a fun person I love having a good time and everyone knows that! I think I'll ask Micky what he thinks of me…
NB: "Micky how would you describe me?"
MV: "A heart of gold, always good to be with and playing wise I'd hate to defend him 'cos he runs all day and gives 200%"

**how do you think your wife would describe you?**
Well, she thinks I'm the best!




## david scarsella

**what is your pre game ritual or routine?**
Going for a walk or doing some shopping, after that I always try to have about a half an hour sleep before the game, however this is a bit hard on away trips as Robbie Bajic likes to sing Croatian songs in our room (his voice is terrible!). I must always leave some tickets for somebody at the front gate and I do some things on the pitch that I am superstitious about telling anybody about.

**this is your second season playing nsl - how have you found the experience of playing for adelaide united?**
I have always dreamed about something like this happening in South Australian soccer and to be a part of it is an honor and privilege. Every home game I get so excited about running out in front of a packed stadium and then being greeted behind the goals by The Stand, it is an experience that I will never take for granted.

**what do you think is the difference between playing goal keeper and the other positions on the field?**
Firstly, you have to be absolutely crazy to become a goalkeeper! Secondly, goalkeepers are a totally different species to players. The idea of this great game is to score goals, celebrate and party. When you play in goals your aim is to save the goals and ultimately goalkeepers are the ones that spoil the party, and nobody likes someone that spoils the party!

**when you are not playing or training – what are you usually doing?**
Thinking that I should be doing homework but instead doing everything else except homework. I enjoy going to the gym, playing golf, watching the stock market and catching up with mates. My girlfriend takes up a huge chunk of my time (as girlfriends do!) and I Love smashing ISS Soccer on my PS2 and Championship Manager 4 on my computer.

**what was your most embarrassing moment?**
This is an easy one. It would have to be when I celebrated prematurely before the game had finished against Northern Spirit. I still laugh about thinking how stupid I must have looked hahaha!. I now get heaps of people asking me to shake their hand before and after the game.

**where would you like to see your soccer career take you over the next five years?**
It has always been a life long dream of mine to play overseas in a professional setup where everybody's life revolves around football. However to leave a club like United would be a very hard decision, United and it's supporters will always hold a number one spot in my heart. My focus for now is to try and win the championship in our first NSL season.

**can you tell us a bit about how you got started in soccer and who has been your biggest influence?**
I was virtually born into the soccer fraternity so I started playing pretty much when I was born. I think my family has been my biggest influence and have supported me throughout my career. Mark Bosnich was a major role model for me as a kid but I have had to search for a new one of late for obvious reasons.

**how do you think the other players would describe you?**
Someone who is easy to get along with, extremely opinionated (which can get me in trouble sometimes), will never hold a grudge, hard working and loves a good argument with Ross Aloisi (on or off the field).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# ADELAIDE UNITED PLAYERS

**all NSL statistics as at 6 Jan 2004**

## 1. David Scarsella
**Born:** 12-Oct-82 **Position:** Goalkeeper
**Australian honours:** Schoolboys
**NSL debut:** 24-Nov-02, for Adelaide City (D1-1 v Northern Spirit) aged 20
**NSL stats:** 18 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former club:** Adelaide City (NSL)

## 2. Richie Alagich
**Born:** 30-Oct-73 **Position:** Defender
**Australian honours:** Schoolboys, Under 20, Under 23
**NSL debut:** 28-Nov-93, for West Adelaide (L0-2 v Marconi Stallions) aged 20
**NSL stats:** 187 games / 4 goals / 1 send-off
**Former clubs:** Brisbane Strikers (NSL), South Melbourne (NSL), West Adelaide (NSL), Port Adelaide (SA), Birkalla (SA)

## 3. Kristian Rees
**Born:** 6-Jan-80 **Position:** Defender
**NSL debut:** 20-Oct-00, for Adelaide City (L0-2 v Sydney United) aged 20
**NSL stats:** 53 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Adelaide City (NSL), Para Hills (SA)

## 4. Aaron Goulding
**Born:** 29-Apr-82 **Position:** Defender
**Australian honours:** Under 17, Under 20, Under 23
**NSL debut:** 29-Oct-00, for Adelaide City (L0-3 v Sydney Olympic) aged 18
**NSL stats:** 31 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Adelaide City (NSL), Playford City (SA), Para Hills (SA), SASI

## 5. Mike Valkanis
**Born:** 23-Aug-74 **Position:** Defender
**Australian honours:** Under 23
**NSL debut:** 25-Oct-92, for South Melbourne (D1-1 v Preston) aged 18
**NSL stats:** 96 games / 4 goals / 2 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Adelaide City (NSL), Agios Nikolaos (Greece), Larissa (Greece), Iraklis (Greece), South Melbourne (NSL)

## 6. Ross Aloisi
**Born:** 17-Apr-73 **Position:** Midfielder
**Australian honours:** Under 17, Under 23, Socceroos (5 games)
**NSL debut:** 14-Oct-90, for Adelaide City (D2-2 v Wollongong United) aged 17
**NSL stats:** 115 games / 15 goals / 2 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Pro Sesto (Italy), Alzano (Italy), Grazer (Austria), Lorient (France), Aarau (Switzerland), West Adelaide (NSL), Brunswick (NSL), Adelaide City (NSL), FC Boom (Belgium)

## 7. David Terminello
**Born:** 30-Aug-80 **Position:** Midfielder
**Australian honours:** Schoolboys, Under 17, Under 20
**NSL debut:** 11-Oct-98, for Adelaide City (L0-1 v Perth Glory) aged 18
**NSL stats:** 112 games / 7 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Adelaide City (NSL), Carlton (NSL), SASI, Campbelltown (SA)

## 8. Carl Veart
**Born:** 21-May-70 **Position:** Striker
**Australian honours:** Under 23, Socceroos (23 games)
**NSL debut:** 04-Nov-89, for Adelaide City (W2-0 v Wollongong Wolves) aged 19
**NSL stats:** 290 games / 73 goals / 1 send-off
**Former clubs:** Adelaide City (NSL), Millwall (England), Crystal Palace (England), Sheffield United (England), Salisbury (SA), Whyalla Croatia (SA)

## 9. Shane Smeltz
**Born:** 29-Sep-81 **Position:** Striker
**Representative honours:** New Zealand Under 20, Under 23, senior team
**NSL debut:** 27-Nov-99, for Brisbane Strikers (W5-1 v South Melbourne) aged 18
**NSL stats:** 54games / 8 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Adelaide City (NSL), Napier City (New Zealand), Brisbane Strikers (NSL), Gold Coast City (Qld), Queensland Academy of Sport

## 10. Aurelio Vidmar (c)
**Born:** 3-Feb-67 **Position:** Midfielder
**Australian honours:** Olympic team, Socceroos (53 games)
**NSL debut:** 10-Mar-85, for Adelaide City (L0-3 v Melbourne Knights) aged 18
**NSL stats:** 279 games / 51 goals / 4 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Adelaide City (NSL), San Frecce Hiroshima (Japan), Tenerife (Spain), Sion (Switzerland), Feyenoord (Holland), Standard Liege (Belgium), Waregem (Belgium), Kortrijk (Belgium)

## 11. Goran Lozanovski
**Born:** 11-Jan-74 **Position:** Midfielder
**Australian honours:** Under 20, Under 23, Socceroos (9 games)
**NSL debut:** 09-Feb-92, for Preston (W4-0 v West Adelaide) aged 18
**NSL stats:** 252 games / 27 goals / 4 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Adelaide City (NSL), Alemannia Aachen (Germany), South Melbourne (NSL), Collingwood Warriors (NSL), Preston (NSL), AIS, Altona Gate (Vic)

## 12. Shane Thompson
**Born:** 24-Nov-78 **Position:** Defender
**NSL debut:** 28-Nov-03, for Adelaide United (D2-2 v Wollongong Wolves) aged 25
**NSL stats:** 7 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Enfield Falcons (SA), Northern Spirit (NSL), Birkalla (SA), Adelaide City (NSL)

## 14. Sean Widera
**Born:** 18-Nov-81 **Position:** Striker
**NSL statistics:** –
**Former clubs:** Raiders (SA), Croydon (SA), Adelaide City (SA), Hibernian (Scotland), SASI

## 15. Aaron Westervelt
**Born:** 21-Nov-79 **Position:** Midfielder
**Australian honours:** Schoolboys
**NSL debut:** 15-Mar-98, for West Adelaide (W1-0 v Perth Glory) aged 18
**NSL stats:** 21 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Enfield Falcons (SA), Para Hills (SA), Birkalla (SA), Elizabeth (SA), West Adelaide (NSL), AIS, SASI

## 17. Mimi Saric
**Born:** 3-Sep-83 **Position:** Striker
**Australian honours:** Under 17
**NSL debut:** 18-Jan-02, for Adelaide City (W3-2 v Melbourne Knights) aged 18
**NSL stats:** 18 games / 3 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Adelaide City (NSL), Raiders (SA), AIS, SASI, Campbelltown (SA)

## 18. Fred Agius
**Born:** 2-Feb-84 **Position:** Midfielder
**Australian honours:** Under 17
**NSL debut:** 22-Feb-02, for Sydney Olympic (W3-0 v Adelaide City) aged 18
**NSL stats:** 4 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Sydney Olympic (NSL), Playford City (SA), SASI

## 19. Elias Demourtzidis
**Born:** 25-Jun-81 **Position:** Striker
**Australian honours:** Under 20
**NSL debut:** 25-Oct-98, for West Adelaide (L0-1 v Morwell Falcons) aged 17
**NSL stats:** 21 games / 2 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Adelaide Olympic (SA), Sydney Olympic (NSL), South Melbourne (NSL), West Adelaide (NSL), AIS, SASI

## 20. Robert Bajic
**Born:** 29-Jul-77 **Position:** Goalkeeper
**NSL debut:** 23-Nov-03, for Adelaide United (L1-2 v South Melbourne) aged 26
**NSL stats:** 3 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Raiders (SA), Rochedale (Qld), Rocklea (Qld)

## 21. Adriano Pellegrino
**Born:** 9-Jun-84 **Position:** Midfielder
**Australian honours:** Under 20
**NSL debut:** 21-Dec-01, for Adelaide City (W3-0 v Football Kingz) aged 17
**NSL stats:** 21 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
**Former club:** Adelaide City (NSL)

## 22. Nick Crossley
**Born:** 12-Sep-87 **Position:** Goalkeeper
**Australian honours:** Under 17
**NSL stats:** –
**Former clubs:** SASI, Modbury (SA)

## 23. Nick Budin
**Born:** 18-Mar-82 **Position:** Striker
**Australian honours:** Schoolboys
**NSL debut:** 03-Nov-00, for Adelaide City (W4-3 v Morwell Falcons) aged 18
**NSL stats:** 35 games / 5 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former club:** Adelaide City (NSL)

## 24. Matthew Kemp
**Born:** 8-Aug-80 **Position:** Midfielder
**NSL debut:** 24-Oct-99, for Adelaide City (D0-0 v Perth Glory) aged 19
**NSL stats:** 80 games / 8 goals / 1 send-off
**Former clubs:** Adelaide City (NSL), Spal (Italy), AIS, Belconnen United (ACT)

## COACH: John Kosmina
- Born 17-Aug-56, played for Croydon (Polonia) before joining NSL club West Adelaide 1977
- Played 102 games & scored 45 goals for the Socceroos 1976–1988; captain 1982–1986
- Played 289 games & scored 133 goals in the NSL 1977–1989, for West Adelaide, Adelaide City, Sydney City, Sydney Olympic & APIA

**NSL coaching record**

| *Season* | *Club* | *Games* | *W–D–L* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 95/96–97/98 | Newc. Breakers | 85 | 15–23–47 |
| 99/00–02/03 | Brisbane Strikers | 140 | 48–36–56 |
| 03/04 | Adelaide United | 13 | 6–5–2 |
| TOTAL NSL | | 238 | 69–64–105 |


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## club honours

Finalists (2) 01/02, 02/03

## player honours

Most games Esala Masi 93 games (00/01–03/04)
Most goals Joel Griffiths 25 goals (01/02–02/03)

## nsl statistics

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Best result | Worst result |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| All matches | 105 | 33 | 34 | 38 | 130 | 146 | W5-0 v Nthn Spirit (04.10.02) | L4-9 v Wollongong (16.03.01) |
| In Adelaide | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 8 | W3-2 v Adel City (31.01.03) | L2-3 v Adel City (28.03.03) |
| At Hindmarsh | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 8 | W3-2 v Adel City (31.01.03) | L2-3 v Adel City (28.03.03) |

## league record (3 seasons)

| | REGULAR SEASON..... | | | | | | Ladder | | Average | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Season | P | W | D | L | F | A | pos. | Teams | crowd | Top scorer – goals |
| 00/01 | 28 | 5 | 9 | 14 | 31 | 56 | 14th | 15 | 7515 | John Buonavoglia – 7 |
| 01/02 | 24 | 10 | 12 | 2 | 33 | 21 | 2nd | 13 | 9384 | Joel Griffiths – 10 |
| 02/03 | 24 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 37 | 25 | 4th | 13 | 5639 | Joel Griffiths – 15 |

## newcastle's nsl history

Newcastle United was officially registered as an entity just two weeks before the start of the 2000/01 season and filled the void of the Newcastle Breakers who, for various reasons, were unable to meet conditions of entry to the 2000/01 season. The bulk of the Newcastle Breakers playing and coaching staff transferred to Newcastle United in September 2000.

Newcastle United is the fourth NSL club to represent the Hunter region, following Newcastle KB United (1978–1984), Newcastle Rosebud United (1984–1986) and Newcastle Breakers (1991–2000).

Newcastle KB United (sponsored by Tooths breweries, makers of KB beer) brought unprecedented home crowds and media attention when they commenced their NSL venture in 1978. The 18,367 crowd which saw its round six match in 1979 was a record non-finals NSL attendance which stood for over 20 years. High profile players such as Bobby Charlton and Aussie FA Cup final goal scorer Craig Johnston (who hails from the Newcastle district) made guest appearances for KB United in its first few years. However despite such a promising start, the momentum did not hold and five matches into the 1984 season, KB United ceased operations.

The vacancy in the NSL was immediately taken by the Adamstown Rosebuds Soccer Club, a club which had existed since the late 19th century, generally competing in the Northern NSW league. However, while the name (Newcastle Rosebud) and ownership of the NSL club changed, the playing squad remained fairly consistent and the team carried on throughout the 1984 national league season. Remarkably – considering the off-field turmoil – Rosebud took out the 1984 National Cup Final with a 1-0 win over the Melbourne Knights at Melbourne's Olympic Park. The club was relegated after the 1986 season.

The third Newcastle club to enter the NSL was the Newcastle Breakers, who were direct descendants of the Newcastle Austral soccer club. The Austral club was formed in 1951 by newly-arrived migrants from the Greta migrant camp, and competed in the Northern NSW and NSW State Leagues until joining the NSL in 1991. The Breakers resurrected soccer in the Hunter region with reasonable crowds and an impressive self-built home base – Breakers Stadium – in a NSL existence which lasted from October 1991 through to May 2000. The closest the Breakers got to major silverware was when they reached the Cup Final in 1995/96, losing 1-3 to South Melbourne at Melbourne's Bob Jane Stadium.

**NSL RECORD - PREVIOUS NEWCASTLE TEAMS**

| Season | Pos. | Top scorer – goals |
|---|---|---|
| NEWCASTLE KB UNITED | | |
| **1978** (14 teams) | 11th | Ken Boden – 14 |
| **1979** (14 teams) | 6th | Ken Boden – 12 |
| **1980** (14 teams) | 6th | Graham Heys – 8 |
| **1981** (16 teams) | 10th | Bob Mountford – 7 |
| **1982** (16 teams) | 12th | David Lowe – 9 |
| **1983** (16 teams) | 5th | David Lowe – 10 |
| NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD UNITED | | |
| **1984** (12x2 teams) | 8th | Simon Brandt – 8 |
| **1985** (12x2 teams) | 12th | Darren Stewart – 5 |
| **1986** (12x2 teams) | 6th | Mark Jones – 10 |
| NEWCASTLE BREAKERS | | |
| **91/92** (14 teams) | 11th | John Koch – 7 |
| **92/93** (14 teams) | 8th | Warren Spink – 16 |
| **93/94** (14 teams) | 12th | Warren Spink – 13 |
| **95/96** (12 teams) | 12th | Jason Bennett – 8 |
| **96/97** (14 teams) | 11th | Jason Bennett – 5 |
| **97/98** (14 teams) | 13th | Clayton Zane – 8 |
| **98/99** (15 teams) | 8th | John Buonavoglia – 6 |
| **99/00** (16 teams) | 7th | John Buonavoglia – 16 |

**NEWCASTLE TEAMS IN ADELAIDE**

| Date | Opponent | Result |
|---|---|---|
| **NEWCASTLE KB UNITED** | | |
| 23.04.78 | Adel City | D 1–1 |
| 25.06.78 | West Adel | L 1–0 |
| 18.03.79 | West Adel | D 1–1 |
| 08.04.79 | Adel City | D 0–0 |
| 09.03.80 | West Adel | D 1–1 |
| 17.08.80 | Adel City | W 1–3 |
| 08.03.81 | West Adel | W 0–1 |
| 19.04.81 | Adel City | L 4–1 |
| 07.03.82 | Adel City | D 2–2 |
| 01.08.82 | West Adel | W 1–2 |
| 10.07.83 | Adel City | W 0–1 |
| 31.07.83 | West Adel | W 1–4 |
| **NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD** | | |
| 06.05.84 | West Adel | L 4–1 |
| **NEWCASTLE BREAKERS** | | |
| 29.12.91 | Adel City | D 1–1 |
| 16.02.92 | West Adel | W 1–2 |
| 17.01.93 | West Adel | W 1–2 |
| 28.02.93 | Adel City | L 2–1 |
| 07.11.93 | West Adel | D 0–0 |
| 27.02.94 | Adel City | L 3–0 |
| 23.12.95 | West Adel | L 2–1 |
| 05.03.96 | Adel City | L 2–1 |
| 05.01.97 | Adel City | D 2–2 |
| 02.02.97 | West Adel | L 2–1 |
| 07.01.98 | Adel City | L 4–0 |
| 11.01.98 | West Adel | L 3–1 |
| 08.11.98 | West Adel | L 3–1 |
| 11.04.99 | Adel City | L 1–0 |
| 26.01.00 | Adel City | L 2–0 |
| 17.03.00 | Adel City | L 2–1 |
| **NEWCASTLE UNITED** | | |
| 24.11.00 | Adel City | D 1–1 |
| 02.11.01 | Adel City | D 2–2 |
| 31.01.03 | Adel City | W 3–2 |
| 28.03.03 | Adel City | L 2–3 |

Now it is Newcastle United who are the soccer flag-bearers of the Hunter district. The club is owned by successful Sydney/Newcastle businessman Con Constantine, a long-time supporter of the round ball code. While United started poorly on the field, finishing second last in its first season 2000/01, off the field things were not looking so bad with good home crowds (including a figure of over 15,000 in its first home game – against Brisbane Strikers) and major media coverage throughout the region. A buying spree in 2001 – which saw the likes of Matthew Bingley, Milan Blagojevic, Joel Griffiths and Adelaide's Daniel Beltrame join the club, along with a new coach Ian Crook – led to an unprecedented second placing for the club on the 2001/02 ladder, the best performance by far of any Newcastle club in the NSL. United was knocked out by eventual Champions Sydney Olympic in the 2001/02 Preliminary Final. Crook won the NSL Coach of the Year in 2001/02.

Although United lost many useful players in the 2003 off-season, including Beltrame, Travis Dodd (both to Parramatta Power), Bingley (Perth Glory), Joel Griffiths (Switzerland) and Scott Baillie (Olympic), the club made the astute purchases of Craig Deans (from Perth Glory) and Greg Owens (Olympic). Newcastle United started off the current season in fine form, undefeated in its first five games, but have since won just two of its last 12 matches.


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## 1. Tom Willis
**Born:** 4-Nov-83 **Position:** Goalkeeper
**Australian honours:** U23, U20
**NSL stats:** debut 02/03 season
19 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
**Newc Utd:** debut 02/03 season
19 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former club:** Brisbane City (Qld)

## 2. Craig Deans
**Born:** 7-May-74 **Position:** Defender
**NSL stats:** debut 98/99 season
102 games / 4 goals / 2 send-offs
**Newc Utd:** debut 03/04 season
11 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Perth Glory (NSL), Western Knights (WA), Carlton (NSL), Floreat Athena (WA), Bassendon Caledonian (WA)

## 4. Adam Griffiths
**Born:** 21-Aug-79 **Position:** Midfielder
**NSL stats:** debut 99/00 season
59 games / 3 goals / 0 send-offs
**Newc Utd:** debut 02/03 season
31 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Northern Spirit (NSL), Manly Warringah (NSW), Morwell Falcons (NSL), Sutherland (NSW)

## 5. Scott Thomas
**Born:** 19-Aug-74 **Position:** Midfielder
**NSL stats:** debut 95/96 season
205 games / 8 goals / 4 send-offs
**Newc Utd:** debut 02/03 season
44 games / 1 goal / 1 send-off
**Former clubs:** Northern Spirit (NSL), Adamstown Rosebud (NNSW), Sydney Olympic (NSL), Parramatta Eagles (NSW), Adelaide City (NSL), Newcastle Breakers (NSL), Adamstown Rosebud (NSW)

## 6. Michael Prentice
**Born:** 22-Sep-82 **Position:** Defender
**Australian honours:** U23
**NSL stats:** debut 99/00 season
13 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
**Newc Utd:** debut 01/02 season
12 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former club:** Northern Spirit (NSL)

## 7. Greg Owens
**Born:** 27-Jan-81 **Position:** Midfielder
**Australian honours:** U23, U20
**NSL stats:** debut 98/99 season
116 games / 15 goals / 0 send-offs
**Newc Utd:** debut 03/04 season
15 games / 2 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Sydney Olympic (NSL), Newcastle Breakers (NSL)

## 8. Mark Wilson
**Born:** 4-Jul-74 **Position:** Midfielder
**NSL stats:** debut 91/92 season
179 games / 11 goals / 0 send-offs
**Newc Utd:** debut 00/01 season
79 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Newcastle Breakers (NSL), Edgeworth (NNSW), Highfields (NNSW)

## 9. Ryan Griffiths
**Born:** 21-Aug-81 **Position:** Attacker
**Australian honours:** U20
**NSL stats:** debut 99/00 season
88 games / 14 goals / 0 send-offs
**Newc Utd:** debut 02/03 season
47 games / 8 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Manly Warringah (NSW), Northern Spirit (NSL)

## 10. Mitchell Johnson
**Born:** 26-Feb-83 **Position:** Attacker
**NSL stats:** debut 00/01 season
41 games / 2 goals / 0 send-offs
**Newc Utd:** debut 00/01 season
41 games / 2 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former club:** AIS

## 11. Peter Tsekenis
**Born:** 4-Aug-73 **Position:** Midfielder
**Australian honours:** U23, U20
**NSL stats:** debut 90/91 season
249 games / 12 goals / 3 send-offs
**Newc Utd:** debut 00/01 season
76 games / 6 goals / 1 send-off
**Former clubs:** Sydney Olympic (NSL), St George (NSL)

## 12. Josh Mitchell
**Born:** 8-Jun-84 **Position:** Midfielder
**NSL stats:** debut 02/03 season
16 games / 0 goals / 1 send-off
**Newc Utd:** debut 02/03 season
16 games / 0 goals / 1 send-off

## 13. Milan Blagojevic
**Born:** 24-Dec-69 **Position:** Midfielder
**Australian honours:** Socceroos, U23, U20
**NSL stats:** debut 1989 season
255 games / 5 goals / 2 send-offs
**Newc Utd:** debut 01/02 season
57 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Parramatta Power (NSL), Sydney Olympic (NSL), Johor (Malaysia), Heidelberg (NSL), Heerenveen (Holland), Ekeren (Belgium), Marconi Stallions (NSL), APIA Leichhardt (NSL), Bonnyrigg (NSW)

## 14. Jobe Wheelhouse
**Born:** 14-Apr-85 **Position:** Midfielder
**NSL stats:** debut 02/03 season
18 games / 4 goals / 0 send-offs
**Newc Utd:** debut 02/03 season
18 games / 4 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former club:** AIS

## 15. Keegan Wolfenden
**Born:** 4-Apr-86 **Position:** Defender
**Australian honours:** U17
**NSL stats:** debut 03/04 season
5 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
**Newc Utd:** debut 03/04 season
5 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former club:** AIS

## 17. Esala Masi
**Born:** 9-Mar-74 **Position:** Attacker
**NSL stats:** debut 95/96 season
199 games / 43 goals / 4 send-offs
**Newc Utd:** debut 00/01 season
93 games / 18 goals / 1 send-off
**Former clubs:** Wollongong Wolves (NSL), Canterbury (NSW), Rochedale Rovers (QLD), Morwell Falcons (NSL), FSC Club (Fiji), Ba (Fiji)

## 20. John Perosh
**Born:** 29-Nov-73 **Position:** Goalkeeper
**Australian honours:** U20
**NSL stats:** debut 95/96 season
83 games / 0 goals / 1 send-off
**Newc Utd:** debut 03/04 season
9 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Sydney United (NSL), Northern Spirit (NSL), Sydney Olympic (NSL), Wollongong United (NSW), Granville (NSW)

## 21. Damien Brown
**Born:** 12-Jan-75 **Position:** Defender
**NSL stats:** debut 95/96 season
98 games / 8 goals / 0 send-offs
**Newc Utd:** debut 03/04 season
13 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Parramatta Power (NSL), Bankstown City (NSW), Central Coast (NSW), Canberra Cosmos (NSL), Newcastle Breakers (NSL)

## 22. Robert Middleby (C)
**Born:** 9-Aug-75 **Position:** Midfielder
**Australian honours:** Socceroos, U20
**NSL stats:** debut 93/94 season
144 games / 10 goals / 4 send-offs
**Newc Utd:** debut 01/02 season
57 games / 6 goals / 1 send-off
**Former clubs:** Wollongong Wolves (NSL), Carlton (NSL), Football Kingz (NSL), Uerdingen (Germany), Adamstown Rosebud (NSW), Newcastle Breakers (NSL), AIS

## 24. Steve Eagleton
**Born:** 26-Oct-76 **Position:** Utility
**NSL stats:** debut 97/98 season
101 games / 3 goals / 0 send-offs
**Newc Utd:** debut 02/03 season
26 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former clubs:** Parramatta Power (NSL), Sydney United (NSL), Bankstown City (NSW), Sydney Olympic (NSL)

## 33. Mitchell Wallace
**Born:** 10-Apr-85 **Position:** Attacker
**NSL stats:** debut 03/04 season
2 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
**Newc Utd:** debut 03/04 season
2 games / 0 goals / 0 send-offs

## 35. Thomas Libbesson
**Born:** 20-Aug-84 **Position:** Midfielder
**NSL stats:** debut 02/03 season
9 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs
**Newc Utd:** debut 02/03 season
9 games / 1 goal / 0 send-offs

## 43. Joel Theissen
**Born:** 11-Aug-85 **Position:** Midfielder
**NSL stats:** debut 03/04 season
1 game / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
**Newc Utd:** debut 03/04 season
1 game / 0 goals / 0 send-offs
**Former club:** AIS

## COACH: Ian Crook

- Born 18 January 1963 in London, England
- Played 20 English top division games (one goal) with Tottenham 1980–86; and 341 games (18 goals) with Norwich City 1986–97
- Played for England 'B' team v Malta
- Played with San Frecce in Japan before moving to Australia
- Player and assistant coach at Northern Spirit 1998/99–1999/00
- NSL Coach of the Year in first full season as coach, 2001/02

**NSL coaching record**

| *Season* | *Club* | *Games* | *W–D–L* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 99/00 | Northern Spirit | 1 | 00–00–01 |
| 01/02–03/04 | Newcastle United | 77 | 27–26–24 |
| TOTAL NSL | | 78 | 27–26–25 |



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all NSL statistics as at 6 Jan 2004

## adelaide united

| No. | Name | Age | 2003–04 Games | 2003–04 Goals |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | David Scarsella | 21 | 10 | 0 |
| 2 | Richie Alagich | 30 | 13 | 0 |
| 3 | Kristian Rees | 24 | 13 | 0 |
| 4 | Aaron Goulding | 21 | 13 | 0 |
| 5 | Mike Valkanis | 29 | 10 | 1 |
| 6 | Ross Aloisi | 30 | 13 | 1 |
| 7 | David Terminello | 23 | 8 | 1 |
| 8 | Carl Veart | 33 | 13 | 7 |
| 9 | Shane Smeltz | 22 | 6 | 1 |
| 10 | Aurelio Vidmar | 36 | 12 | 1 |
| 11 | Goran Lozanovski | 30 | 12 | 0 |
| 12 | Shane Thompson | 25 | 7 | 1 |
| 14 | Sean Widera | 22 | – | – |
| 15 | Aaron Westervelt | 24 | 8 | 0 |
| 17 | Mimi Saric | 20 | 8 | 2 |
| 18 | Fred Agius | 18 | – | – |
| 19 | Elias Demourtzidis | 22 | 7 | 0 |
| 20 | Robert Bajic | 26 | 3 | 0 |
| 21 | Adriano Pellegrino | 19 | 11 | 1 |
| 22 | Nick Crossley | 16 | – | – |
| 23 | Nick Budin | 21 | 5 | 0 |
| 24 | Matthew Kemp | 23 | 7 | 1 |

**Referee:** Peter Green (Qld) **Fourth official:** Craig Zetter
**Assistant Referees:** Matthew Cream, Craig Duncan

### FORM GUIDE past five games

| Result | Opponent (home/away) | Scorers |
|---|---|---|
| W 1–0 | Northern Spirit (H) | Saric 8' |
| D 1–1 | Sydney Olympic (H) | Thompson 87' |
| W 2–1 | Parramatta Power (A) | Aloisi 10', Veart 18' |
| W 2–1 | Melbourne Knights (H) | Veart 15', Terminelo 31' |
| – | Brisbane Strikers (A) | |

## newcastle united

| No. | Name | Age | 2003–04 Games | 2003–04 Goals |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Tom Willis | 20 | 8 | 0 |
| 2 | Craig Deans | 29 | 11 | 1 |
| 4 | Adam Griffiths | 24 | 14 | 0 |
| 5 | Scott Thomas | 29 | 14 | 0 |
| 6 | Michael Prentice | 21 | 1 | 0 |
| 7 | Greg Owens | 22 | 15 | 2 |
| 8 | Mark Wilson | 29 | 14 | 0 |
| 9 | Ryan Griffiths | 22 | 17 | 3 |
| 10 | Mitchell Johnson | 20 | 15 | 1 |
| 11 | Peter Tsekenis | 30 | 13 | 1 |
| 12 | Josh Mitchell | 19 | 14 | 0 |
| 13 | Milan Blagojevic | 34 | 11 | 0 |
| 14 | Jobe Wheelhouse | 18 | 6 | 3 |
| 15 | Keegan Wolfenden | 17 | 5 | 0 |
| 17 | Esala Masi | 29 | 17 | 3 |
| 20 | John Perosh | 30 | 9 | 0 |
| 21 | Damien Brown | 28 | 13 | 0 |
| 22 | Robert Middleby | 28 | 8 | 1 |
| 24 | Steve Eagleton | 27 | 3 | 0 |
| 33 | Mitchell Wallace | 18 | 2 | 0 |
| 35 | Thomas Libbesson | 19 | 5 | 1 |
| 43 | Joel Theissen | 18 | 1 | 0 |

### FORM GUIDE past five games

| Result | Opponent (home/away) | Scorers |
|---|---|---|
| W 2–0 | Football Kingz (H) | Johnson 34' Deans 55' |
| L 0–1 | South Melbourne (H) | |
| D 1–1 | Northern Spirit (A) | Masi 34' |
| L 0–1 | Marconi Stallions (H) | |
| L 0–4 | Parramatta Power (A) | |

## welcome freddy!

Last week, Adelaide United announced the signing of **Fred Agius**. The 18 year old attacking started his playing career as a six year old at Brahma Lodge, and further developed through the Adelaide City Juniors from age 10 to 14 before being recruited to the South Australian Sports Institute, where he stayed for three years. In 2000 he was selected to represent Australia at the Under 17 level, and in a World Youth Championship (WYC) qualifying match against American Samoa in December 2000 he scored six goals. Freddy played in all Australia's matches in the 2001 Under 17 WYC finals in Trinidad and Tobago, scoring Australia's only goal in the group stage victory over the host team. He was awarded the prestigious Junior Male sportsperson of the year at the 2001 Indigenous Sports Awards. He joined NSL club Sydney Olympic and in February 2002 made his NSL debut against Adelaide City, scoring in his first game. He also excels in Aussie Rules, and played for the Grand Final winning Central Districts SANFL reserves team in 2003.

## half time

### Pura Milk Mini League Cup

At half time of Adelaide United matches you will see the stars of the future participating in the **Pura Milk** Mini League Cup.

The teams are selected from the Federation's Junior Premier League. Players are under 12. The competition is conducted on a knockout basis which culminates with a Grand Final to be played at half time of Adelaide United last home match against Parramatta Power, on Wednesday February 25. The winning team will be presented with the **Pura Milk** Mini League Champions Cup and medallions to all players.

Teams are seven a side with two substitutions allowed. Matches are played over two 5 minute halves. Should the scores be tied at full time the result is determined by the numbers of corner kicks won.

This competition gives over 150 boys and girls the opportunity of experiencing the excitement of playing on the hallowed Hindmarsh turf in front of packed audiences.

Referees are also appointed from the Junior Premier League Referees branch.

Make sure you all cheer loud in appreciation of our stars of the future.

**TONIGHT'S ROUND**
**Cumberland United v White City**
**Mt Barker v Pirates**



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## results & line-ups

ADELAIDE UNITED F.C.

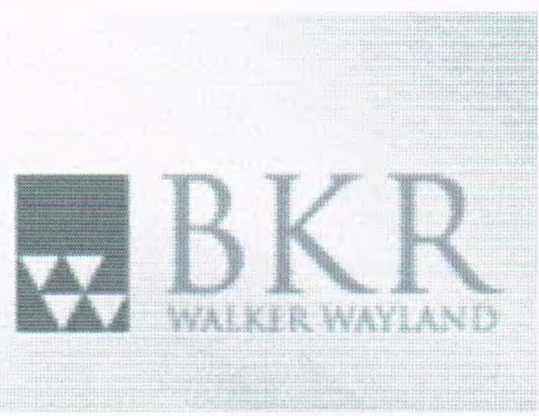
| Date | Opponent | Venue | Result | Richie Alagich | Ross Aloisi | Robert Bajic | Nick Budin | Elias Demourtzidis | Aaron Goulding | Matthew Kemp | Goran Lozanovski | Adriano Pellegrino | Kristian Rees | Mimi Saric | David Scarsella | Shane Smeltz | David Terminello | Shane Thompson | Mike Valkanis | Carl Veart | Aurelio Vidmar | Aaron Westervelt |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17.10.03 | Brisbane Strikers | Hindmarsh Stadium | W 1–0 | ● | ●y | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ○ | ● | ○ | ● | | ○ | | ● | ❶ | ● | |
| 24.10.03 | Newcastle United | EnergyAustralia | W 3–2 | ● | ● | | | ● | ● | ● | ● | ○ | ● | ○y | ● | | ○ | | ● | ❷ | ❶ | |
| 02.11.03 | Sydney United | Hindmarsh Stadium | D 0–0 | ● | ● | | | ● | ● | ● | ●y | ○ | ● | ○ | ● | | | | ● | ● | ● | |
| 08.11.03 | Marconi Stallions | Marconi Stadium | D 0–0 | ● | ●y | | | ○ | ● | ● | ● | ○ | ● | | ● | | ○ | | ● | ● | ●y | ●y |
| 16.11.03 | Perth Glory | Hindmarsh Stadium | L 1–4 | ● | ● | | | ● | ● | ❶ | ● | ○ | ● | ○ | ● | | ○ | | ● | ●y | ● | |
| 23.11.03 | South Melbourne | Bob Jane Stadium | L 1–2 | ● | ●y | ● | | ○ | ● | ● | ●y | ○ | ●y | ○ | | ● | ○ | | ●y | ❶ | ● | |
| 28.11.03 | Wollongong Wolves | Hindmarsh Stadium | D 2–2 | ● | ● | ● | | | ● | ● | ● | | ● | ① | | ● | | ○ | ❶ | ● | ● | ○ |
| 30.11.03 | Sydney Olympic | OKI Jubilee Stadium | D 0–0 | ● | ● | ● | ○ | | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ○ | | ● | | ● | | ● | ● | ○y |
| 06.12.03 | Football Kingz | Ericsson Stadium | W 3–1 | ● | ● | | ○ | | ●y | | ● | ❶y | ● | ● | ● | ① | | ● | | ❶ | ● | ○ |
| 10.12.03 | Northern Spirit | Hindmarsh Stadium | W 3–1 | ● | ● | | ○y | | ● | | ● | ● | ● | ❶ | ●y | | | ● | | ● | ● | ○y |
| 14.12.03 | Sydney Olympic | Hindmarsh Stadium | D 1–1 | ● | ● | | | | ● | | ● | | ● | | ● | ● | ○ | ❶ | ○y | ● | ●r | ● |
| 20.12.03 | Parramatta Power | Parramatta Stadium | W 2–1 | ● | ❶ | | ● | ○ | ● | | ● | ○y | ●y | | ● | | ○ | ●y | ● | ❶y | | ● |
| 28.12.03 | Melbourne Knights | Hindmarsh Stadium | W 2–1 | ● | ● | | ○ | | ● | | | ○ | ● | | ● | ○ | ❶ | ● | ● | ❶y | ● | ● |
| 07.01.04 | Brisbane Strikers | Perry Park | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

●=starting appearance. ○=substitute appearance. Goals denoted by number. y=yellow card. r=red card.

## remaining matches

| Rnd | Date | | Time | Opponent | Venue |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19 | Sun | 11.01.04 | 7:00pm | Newcastle United | Hindmarsh Stadium |
| 20 | Sun | 18.01.04 | 6:30pm | Sydney United | Sydney Utd Sports Centre |
| 21 | Fri | 23.01.04* | 7:30pm | Marconi Stallions | Hindmarsh Stadium |
| 22 | Sat | 31.01.04 | 7:00pm | Perth Glory | Members Equity Stadium |
| 23 | Fri | 06.02.04 | 7:30pm | South Melbourne | Hindmarsh Stadium |
| 3 | Sun | 08.02.04 | 6:00pm | Melbourne Knights | Knights Stadium |
| 24 | Fri | 13.02.04 | 7:35pm | Wollongong Wolves | WIN Stadium |
| 25 | Fri | 20.02.04 | 7:30pm | Football Kingz | Hindmarsh Stadium |
| 2 | Wed | 25.02.04 | 7:30pm | Parramatta Power | Hindmarsh Stadium |
| 26 | Sun | 29.02.04 | tba | Northern Spirit | Pittwater Park |

*Dates/times subject to change. in particular the Marconi match Local times shown. Finals series runs March–4 April.

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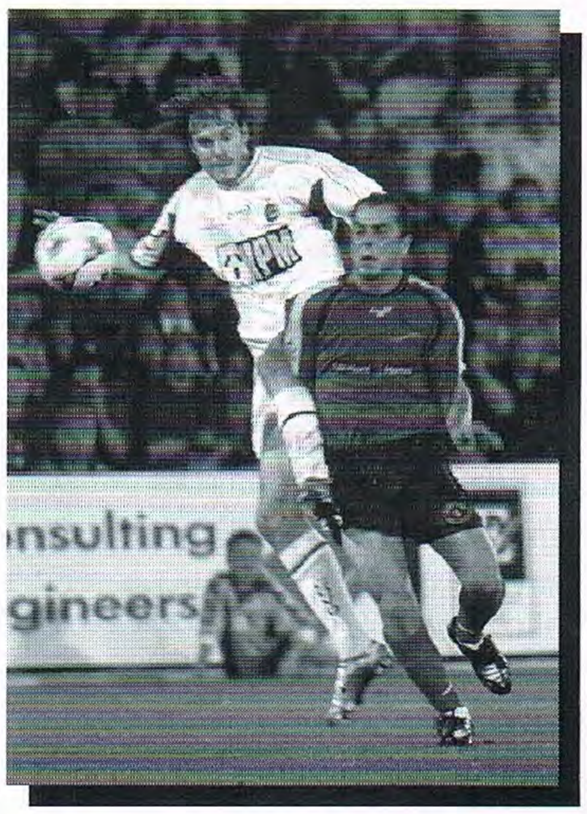

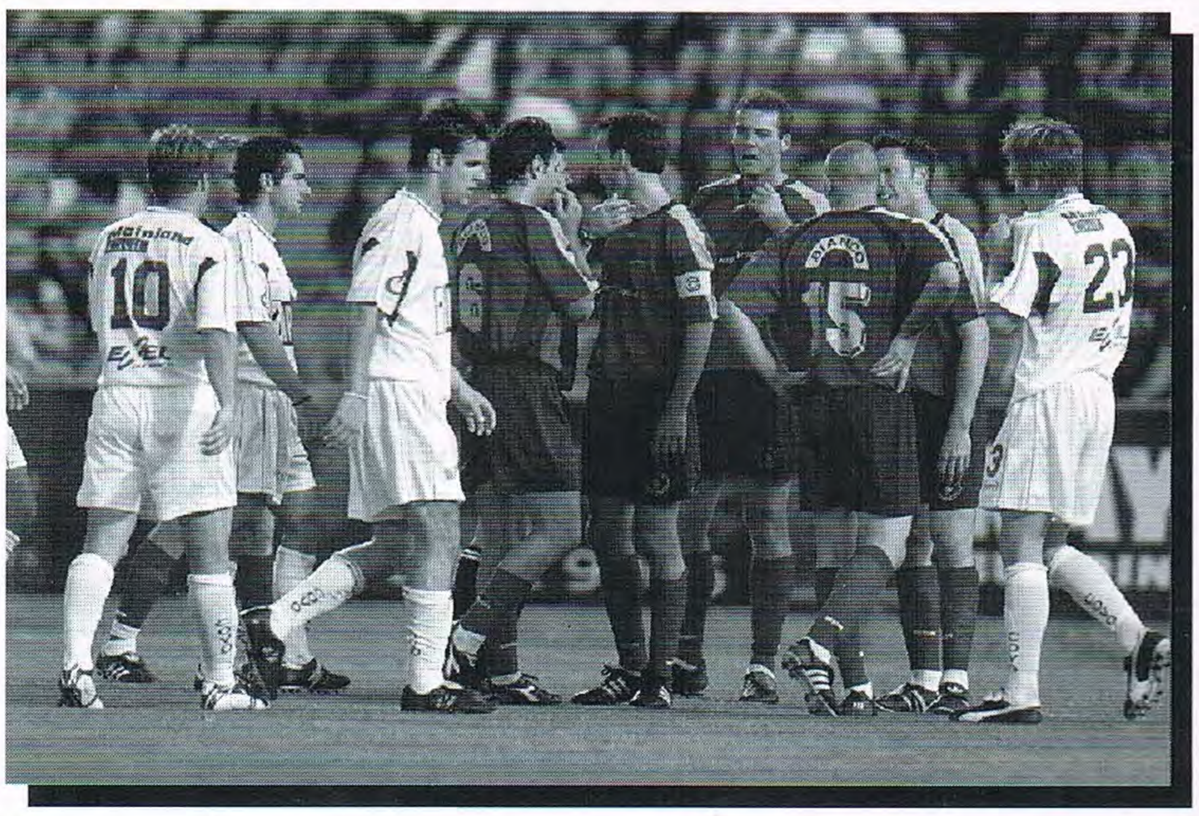

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**note: due to publication deadline, all statistics are as at 6 Jan 2004, ie. prior to last Wednesday's partial round of NSL matches**

## the ladder that matters

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Perth Glory | 14 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 33 | 15 | 18 | 31 |
| Parramatta Power* | 15 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 34 | 15 | 19 | 29 |
| South Melbourne | 16 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 33 | 14 | 19 | 29 |
| Brisbane Strikers* | 16 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 20 | 20 | 0 | 26 |
| Sydney United* | 14 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 12 | 7 | 5 | 23 |
| ***Adelaide United**** | ***13*** | ***6*** | ***5*** | ***2*** | ***17*** | ***14*** | ***3*** | ***23*** |
| Marconi Stallions | 16 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 16 | 19 | -3 | 21 |
| ***Newcastle United*** | ***17*** | ***5*** | ***5*** | ***7*** | ***17*** | ***22*** | ***-5*** | ***20*** |
| Wollongong Wolves | 15 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 19 | 25 | -6 | 19 |
| Sydney Olympic | 16 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 20 | -8 | 18 |
| Northern Spirit | 16 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 21 | 23 | -2 | 17 |
| Melbourne Knights* | 15 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 11 | 27 | -16 | 12 |
| Football Kingz* | 15 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 13 | 37 | -24 | 5 |

*Three points per win, one point per draw.* * played Wednesday 7 January

## goal grabbers

| *Player (club)* | *Goals* |
|---|---|
| Ante Milicic (Parramatta Power) | 12 |
| Vaughan Coveny (South Melbourne) | 10 |
| Michael Curcija (South Melbourne) | 9 |
| Damian Mori (Perth Glory) | 8 |
| Stewart Petrie (Northern Spirit) | 7 |
| ***Carl Veart (Adelaide United)*** | ***7*** |
| Chimaobi Nwaogazi (Wollongong Wolves) | 6 |
| Bobby Despotovski (Perth Glory) | 6 |
| Travis Dodd (Parramatta Power) | 6 |
| Brad Maloney (Marconi Stallions) | 5 |
| Stuart Young (Wollongong Wolves) | 5 |
| Anthony Pelikan (Melbourne Knights) | 5 |
| Luke Morley (Brisbane Strikers) | 5 |
| Nick Mrdja (Perth Glory) | 5 |
| Tom Pondeljak (Perth Glory) | 5 |

## crowd watch

| *Home games* | *#* | *Average* |
|---|---|---|
| Adelaide United | 7 | 12303 |
| Perth Glory | 4 | 9784 |
| South Melbourne | 8 | 6403 |
| Melbourne Knights | 6 | 3462 |
| Sydney Olympic | 9 | 3183 |
| Sydney United | 8 | 3030 |
| Newcastle United | 10 | 2874 |
| Brisbane Strikers | 8 | 2600 |
| Northern Spirit | 8 | 2291 |
| Wollongong Wolves | 8 | 2276 |
| Parramatta Power | 7 | 2232 |
| Marconi Stallions | 8 | 1908 |
| Football Kingz | 8 | 1405 |
| **All clubs** | **99** | **3822** |

## the men in the middle

| *Referee* | *Games* | *Yellows* | *Reds* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Simon Micallef (NSW) | 10 | 25 | 2 |
| Craig Zetter (SA) | 9 | 40 | 2 |
| Eddie Lennie (WA) | 9 | 30 | 3 |
| Con Diomis (NSW) | 9 | 21 | 1 |
| Mathew Breeze (NSW) | 8 | 24 | 2 |
| Ben Williams (ACT) | 7 | 36 | 1 |
| Mark Shield (QLD) | 7 | 24 | 2 |
| Peter Green (QLD) | 7 | 20 | 0 |
| Angelo Nardi (WA) | 6 | 24 | 2 |
| Derek Rugg (NZ) | 6 | 20 | 2 |
| Brett Hugo (NSW) | 6 | 16 | 3 |
| Simon Pryzdacz (NSW) | 5 | 19 | 0 |
| Perry Mur (VIC) | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| James Lewis (NNSW) | 4 | 7 | 1 |
| Nathan Rice (NNSW) | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| **Total** | **99** | **314** | **22** |

## card count

| | *Yellows* | *Reds* |
|---|---|---|
| Marconi Stallions | 34 | 4 |
| Northern Spirit | 37 | 1 |
| Sydney United | 27 | 5 |
| ***Newcastle United*** | ***26*** | ***3*** |
| South Melbourne | 27 | 1 |
| Melbourne Knights | 25 | 1 |
| ***Adelaide United*** | ***23*** | ***1*** |
| Sydney Olympic | 21 | 2 |
| Brisbane Strikers | 22 | 1 |
| Football Kingz | 22 | 1 |
| Wollongong Wolves | 20 | 1 |
| Parramatta Power | 15 | 1 |
| Perth Glory | 15 | 0 |
| **Total** | **314** | **22** |

## previous week

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Fri | 02.01.04 | PARRAMATTA POWER 4 (Dodd 57' Petrovski 62' 84' Milicic 71') NEWCASTLE UNITED 0 at Parramatta Stadium. Crowd 2736. |
| Sat | 03.01.04 | BRISBANE STRIKERS 1 (Grierson 79') SOUTH MELBOURNE 0 at Perry Park. Crowd 3417. |
| Sat | 03.01.04 | PERTH GLORY 4 (Murphy 29' Faria 56' Mrdja 62' 78') FOOTBALL KINGZ 0 at Members Equity Stadium. Crowd 9856. |
| Sun | 04.01.04 | NORTHERN SPIRIT 0 MARCONI STALLIONS 0 at Pittwater Park. Crowd 2115. |
| Sun | 04.01.04 | SYDNEY UNITED 0 SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0 at Sydney Utd Sports Centre. Crowd 3462. |
| Sun | 04.01.04 | WOLLONGONG WOLVES 1 (Young 50'pen) MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1 (Trajanovski 66') at WIN Stadium. Crowd 3211. |

## previous round

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *tba* | | MARCONI STALLIONS | SYDNEY OLYMPIC | Marconi Stadium |
| Wed | 07.01.04 | 7:30pm | MELBOURNE KNIGHTS | FOOTBALL KINGZ | Knights Stadium |
| Wed | 07.01.04 | 7:00pm | BRISBANE STRIKERS | ADELAIDE UNITED | Perry Park |
| Wed | 07.01.04 | 7:30pm | PARRAMATTA POWER | SYDNEY UNITED | Parramatta Stadium |
| *Wed* | *21.01.04* | *7:30pm* | PERTH GLORY | NORTHERN SPIRIT | Members Equity Stadium |

## current round

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *tba* | | PARRAMATTA POWER | MARCONI STALLIONS | Parramatta Stadium |
| Sat | 10.01.04 | 7:00pm | PERTH GLORY | SYDNEY OLYMPIC | Members Equity Stadium |
| Sun | 11.01.04 | 7:00pm | ADELAIDE UNITED | NEWCASTLE UNITED | Hindmarsh Stadium |
| Sun | 11.01.04 | 7:30pm | SOUTH MELBOURNE | SYDNEY UNITED | Bob Jane Stadium |
| Sun | 11.01.04 | 2:30pm | FOOTBALL KINGZ | WOLLONGONG WOLVES | Ericsson Stadium |
| Sun | 11.01.04 | 5:00pm | NORTHERN SPIRIT | MELBOURNE KNIGHTS | Pittwater Park |

## next round

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fri | 16.01.04 | 7:35pm | WOLLONGONG WOLVES | NORTHERN SPIRIT | WIN Stadium |
| Fri | 16.01.04 | 7:30pm | NEWCASTLE UNITED | BRISBANE STRIKERS | EnergyAustralia Stadium |
| Sat | 17.01.04 | 7:30pm | MARCONI STALLIONS | SOUTH MELBOURNE | Marconi Stadium |
| Sat | 17.01.04 | 7:00pm | PERTH GLORY | PARRAMATTA POWER | Members Equity Stadium |
| Sun | 18.01.04 | 6:00pm | MELBOURNE KNIGHTS | SYDNEY OLYMPIC | Knights Stadium |
| Sun | 18.01.04 | 6:30pm | SYDNEY UNITED | ADELAIDE UNITED | Sydney Utd Sports Centre |

*local times shown*

Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders may be liable to prosecution.
All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the full time whistle.
The setting alight of, or the igniting or discharging of any type of object, including fireworks, signals or smoke flares, is strictly prohibited.
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## shane's shining record

At the time of writing (before the mid-week Brisbane game) Adelaide United's **Shane Thompson** had the impressive NSL statistic of never having played in a losing team. Shane had played his seven NSL matches without a defeat (4 wins, 3 draws).

Only one other NSL player has played more NSL games and never lost: Adelaide City's John Christopoulos, whose NSL record of 9 games, all without defeat, was achieved in 1990/91.

Adrian Cuzzupe (South Melbourne 1998/99) has the remarkable record of winning all his 7 games.

UNDEFEATED NSL CAREERS: MOST GAMES as at 6 Jan 2004

| Games | Player | Wins | Draws |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | John Christopoulos | 6 | 3 |
| 7 | Adrian Cuzzupe | 7 | 0 |
| 7 | Jay Lucas | 6 | 3 |
| **7** | **Shane Thompson** | **4** | **3** |
| 7 | Stewart Van Bentum | 4 | 3 |
| 6 | Mark Brady | 5 | 1 |
| 6 | Peter Vardaxis | 3 | 3 |

## trimboli now number two

South Melbourne striker PAUL TRIMBOLI has equalled Sergio Melta's record of 445 NSL games played (all with Adelaide City), and now needs to make just one more appearance to become the national league's second highest appearance maker. Trimboli is due to play his 446th game today, against Sydney United at Bob Jane Stadium.

TOP TEN NSL APPEARANCE MAKERS as at 6 January 2004

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 518 games | Alex Tobin* | 394 games | Robert Hooker |
| 445 games | Sergio Melta | 393 games | Theo Selemidis |
| 445 games | Paul Trimboli* | 389 games | David Barrett |
| 406 games | Mike O'Shea | 389 games | Andrew Marth* |
| 397 games | Damian Mori* | 377 games | Gary Phillips |

* denotes current player

## tonight's player milestones

Two of tonight's visitors will be playing in milestone matches should they take the field: Esala Masi is due for his 250th NSL game, while Peter Tsekenis is due for his 200th. Congratulations chaps!



### PAST PLAYERS & OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

After a seemingly long and hot Xmas break, the PPOA is resuming its quest for new members and is planning a number of activities for 2004. These include a Junior Training program prior to Adelaide United home matches and a soccer match at Hindmarsh Stadium involving as many PPOA members as possible. A memorabilia night (or day) and a function for past players and their partners is also on the Agenda. Whilst the above have been previously announced, delays have occurred because many members were unavailable over the Xmas/New Year period. We are now waiting for dates to be allocated to us, within Adelaide United's busy pre match entertainment program.

We are now calling for "Blast from the Past" photos. We would welcome old action photos from as many Past Players as possible for inclusion in the Match day magazine. So please go through your old files and deliver photos to Luke Kouzapa at 102 Payneham Road St Peters 5069. The photos should include details of the players involved and if possible, the year in which the photo was taken. All photos will be returned to their owners after publication.

The number of active members is growing, however the Association will be looking to set up a sub-committee to expand its player records database. Ian Luker has taken this activity as far as possible, using his own devices, and will be seeking assistance from interested parties who can provide information on a club basis (including extinct or amalgamated ones) for the period prior to 1988.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all Past Players and Officials. Together with their families, a Very Happy and Successful New Year 2004.

Also congratulations and best wishes to John Kosmina and his players, together with all others associated with Adelaide United. We look forward to the undefeated streak continuing during 2004 culminating in a place in the finals.

**Luke Kouzapa** (President) ph **8363 4133** / e-mail **luke@lkfs.com.au**
**Ian Luker** (Secretary) ph **8255 4400** / e-mail **iluker@ozemail.com.au**

**Adelaide United's official club anthem**

**"United Forever"**

*singer/songwriter Craig Csomgrady*

From many nations our noble fathers came to this land
They gave us a gift of hope and glory in this mighty game
And now we gather here in this field of dreams for the holy grail
the cup of life of this great team

*chorus*
Adelaide United forever! Adelaide United together!

All men are equal and our hearts they beat the same
So proud we're united as one
Let the fire burn in our veins

We'll fly through the air without no fear
Run like a deer, run like the wind for the Glory's here

*chorus*
Adelaide United forever! Adelaide United together!

Whenever we gather here on this field of dreams
We will stand proud, we will stand tall for our great team

*chorus*
Adelaide United forever! Adelaide United together!

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## ADELAIDE UNITED 2
## MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1
### Hindmarsh Stadium, 28 December 2003

Andrew Howe, Soccer Information Services

**A one-goal margin flattered the Melbourne Knights as Adelaide United won the round 16 fixture and climbed to fourth position on the NSL ladder.**

An inexperienced albeit well-disciplined Knights could thank a sensational performance from its giant keeper Vilson Knezevic, who made some stunning reflex saves to keep the young visiting team in contention until the final whistle.

Another packed Hindmarsh Stadium of over 13,000 was stunned when the visiting Knights drew first blood after just three minutes. A long through ball found Kris Trajanovski who took advantage of hesitancy in the Adelaide defence to slot home.

United's reply came just ten minutes later when Richie Alagich - who again played an inspired match - crossed to Carl Veart whose header from four metres out was placed perfectly to Knezevic's left and into goal.

In the 30th minute Trajanovski low headed goal attempt was foiled with a fine instinctive save by David Scarsella.

What then turned out to be the winner was scored in the 31st minute, with possibly the best team goal by Adelaide United at home so far. The play started deep in Adelaide's defensive half, but a stirling 50-metre run through the middle by Ross Aloisi took the ball up to the danger zone. David Terminello, who somehow overtook Aloisi after starting his supporting run from his team's penalty area, received a well-placed pass from Aloisi. Terminello showed great composure by evading the Knights defence, drawing out the Melbourne keeper and shooting truly from 15 metres; the goal was deserved reward for the industrious midfielder who was making his first starting appearance for his club.

Knezevic pulled off perhaps his best of several amazing saves in the 37th minute when a blast on target from Shane Thompson from just two metres away was somehow halted, with Knezevic's telescopic reach palming the ball away and out of danger.

With a free header from a corner just before half-time, Veart's shot from directly in front of goal barely went over the crossbar.

Adelaide United continued to dominate throughout the second half, and it was only in injury time when the Knights had its first - and only - shot on target throughout the half.

The hard-working Aaron Westervelt managed several shots on goal in the second half, mainly from distance. His best attempt came in the 58th minute with a low hard drive from 30 metres, forcing Knezevic to dive to and just parry the ball out for a corner.

More good chances for Adelaide United fell to Veart in the 66th minute - his rushed shot went too high - while a 69th minute opportunity for Thompson, who received the ball from an Aurelio Vidmar flick-on, just failed as well.

A cross from Aaron Goulding which met Veart was almost converted by the busy striker in the 71st minute but again the huge reach and quick reflexes of Knezevic spectacularly denied United.

It was Adelaide United's seventh consecutive match without defeat.

*Adelaide United:* David Scarsella, Aaron Goulding, Mike Valkanis, Kristian Rees, Richie Alagich, Shane Thompson, Aaron Westervelt, David Terminello (Shane Smeltz 78'), Ross Aloisi, Carl Veart (Adriano Pellegrino 81'), Aurelio Vidmar (Nick Budin 74').
*Melbourne Knights:* Vilson Knezevic, Nick Marinos, Adrian Leijer, Rodrigo Vargas, Steve Pantelidis, Daniel Vasilevski (Bill Natsioulas 78'), Andrew Marth, Tomi Razov, Nick Sabljak (Andy Vargas 70'), Anthony Pelikan (Peter Buljan 62'), Kris Trajanovski.

**mark baylis' match stats**

| | *1st half* | | *2nd half* | | *Total* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **AU** | **MK** | **AU** | **MK** | **AU** | **MK** |
| Total shots on goal | 6 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 14 | 4 |
| Shots on target | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| Into penalty area | 12 | 3 | 11 | 4 | 23 | 7 |
| Off-sides conceded | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Corners | 10 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 12 | 5 |
| Unpressured turnovers | 4 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 15 |
| Free kicks | 6 | 9 | 3 | 9 | 9 | 18 |
| Yellow cards | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Red Cards | - | - | - | - | - | - |

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**Top six finals series:** 5 Mar to 4 Apr 2004

**Round 1** ***(19–21 September)***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wollongong Wolves | Sydney United | 0 | 1 |
| Parramatta Power | South Melbourne | 0 | 0 |
| Football Kingz | Newcastle United | 1 | 2 |
| Melbourne Knights | Marconi Stallions | 1 | 1 |
| Northern Spirit | Brisbane Strikers | 1 | 3 |

**Round 2** ***(26–28 September)***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Newcastle United | Northern Spirit | 2 | 1 |
| Brisbane Strikers | Sydney Olympic | 1 | 1 |
| Marconi Stallions | Wollongong Wolves | 2 | 1 |
| Perth Glory | Melbourne Knights | 3 | 0 |
| Sydney United | Football Kingz | 2 | 1 |

**Round 3** ***(3–4 October)***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wollongong Wolves | South Melbourne | 0 | 4 |
| Brisbane Strikers | Perth Glory | 0 | 0 |
| Marconi Stallions | Newcastle United | 1 | 1 |
| Northern Spirit | Sydney Olympic | 4 | 0 |
| Parramatta Power | Football Kingz | 4 | 1 |

**Round 4** ***(10–12 October)***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Newcastle United | Parramatta Power | 1 | 1 |
| Football Kingz | Perth Glory | 1 | 3 |
| Marconi Stallions | Northern Spirit | 2 | 1 |
| Melbourne Knights | Wollongong Wolves | 1 | 2 |
| South Melbourne | Brisbane Strikers | 0 | 1 |
| Sydney Olympic | Sydney United | 1 | 0 |

**Round 5/13** ***(17–19 October)***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Adelaide United | Brisbane Strikers | 1 | 0 |
| Newcastle United(r13) | Wollongong Wolves | 2 | 0 |
| Football Kingz | Melbourne Knights | 1 | 2 |
| Northern Spirit | Perth Glory | 3 | 5 |
| South Melbourne | Newcastle United | 4 | 1 |
| Sydney Olympic | Marconi Stallions | 1 | 2 |
| Sydney United | Parramatta Power | 0 | 2 |

**Round 6** ***(24–26 October)***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Newcastle United | Adelaide United | 2 | 3 |
| Marconi Stallions | Parramatta Power | 1 | 2 |
| Melbourne Knights | Northern Spirit | 0 | 1 |
| Sydney Olympic | Perth Glory | 0 | 2 |
| Sydney United | South Melbourne | 0 | 0 |

**Round 7** ***(1–2 November)***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Brisbane Strikers | Newcastle United | 2 | 1 |
| Adelaide United | Sydney United | 0 | 0 |
| Northern Spirit | Wollongong Wolves | 3 | 0 |
| Parramatta Power | Perth Glory | 6 | 0 |
| South Melbourne | Marconi Stallions | 2 | 0 |
| Sydney Olympic | Melbourne Knights | 0 | 2 |

**Round 8** ***(7–9 November)***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wollongong Wolves | Sydney Olympic | 0 | 1 |
| Football Kingz | Northern Spirit | 0 | 2 |
| Marconi Stallions | Adelaide United | 0 | 0 |
| Parramatta Power | Melbourne Knights | 4 | 0 |
| Perth Glory | South Melbourne | 1 | 0 |
| Sydney United | Brisbane Strikers | 3 | 0 |

**Round 9** ***(14–16 November)***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Newcastle United | Sydney United | 0 | 0 |
| Wollongong Wolves | Parramatta Power | 3 | 1 |
| Marconi Stallions | Brisbane Strikers | 1 | 0 |
| Adelaide United | Perth Glory | 1 | 4 |
| Melbourne Knights | South Melbourne | 0 | 5 |
| Sydney Olympic | Football Kingz | 2 | 2 |

**Round 10** ***(21–23 November)***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Newcastle United | Sydney Olympic | 0 | 1 |
| Brisbane Strikers | Parramatta Power | 4 | 2 |
| Football Kingz | Marconi Stallions | 3 | 1 |
| Northern Spirit | Sydney United | 0 | 1 |
| South Melbourne | Adelaide United | 2 | 1 |
| Wollongong Wolves | Perth Glory | 2 | 1 |

**Round 11/1** ***(28–30 November)***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Adelaide United | Wollongong Wolves | 2 | 2 |
| Newcastle United | Perth Glory | 1 | 0 |
| Brisbane Strikers | Melbourne Knights | 1 | 0 |
| Parramatta Power | Northern Spirit | 3 | 0 |
| Sydney Olympic | Adelaide United (r1) | 0 | 0 |
| South Melbourne | Football Kingz | 6 | 0 |
| Sydney United | Marconi Stallions | 1 | 1 |

**Round 12** ***(5–7 December)***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wollongong Wolves | Brisbane Strikers | 1 | 1 |
| Football Kingz | Adelaide United | 1 | 2 |
| Melbourne Knights | Newcastle United | 1 | 1 |
| Northern Spirit | South Melbourne | 3 | 1 |
| Sydney Olympic | Parramatta Power | 0 | 1 |

**Round 13** ***(10 December)***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Adelaide United | Northern Spirit | 1 | 0 |
| Brisbane Strikers | Football Kingz | 1 | 1 |
| Marconi Stallions | Perth Glory | 0 | 2 |
| South Melbourne | Sydney Olympic | 4 | 2 |
| Sydney United | Melbourne Knights | 3 | 1 |

**Round 14** ***(12–14 December)***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Newcastle United | Football Kingz | 2 | 0 |
| Brisbane Strikers | Northern Spirit | 3 | 1 |
| Marconi Stallions | Melbourne Knights | 0 | 1 |
| Adelaide United | Sydney Olympic | 1 | 1 |
| South Melbourne | Parramatta Power | 2 | 1 |
| Sydney United | Wollongong Wolves | 0 | 1 |

**Round 15/18** ***(19–21 December)***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Football Kingz | Sydney United | 0 | 1 |
| Wollongong Wolves | Marconi Stallions | 3 | 3 |
| Newcastle United | South Melbourne(r18) | 0 | 1 |
| Parramatta Power | Adelaide United | 1 | 2 |
| Melbourne Knights | Perth Glory | 0 | 2 |
| Northern Spirit | Newcastle United | 1 | 1 |
| Sydney Olympic | Brisbane Strikers | 1 | 1 |

**Round 16** ***(27–28 December)***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Newcastle United | Marconi Stallions | 0 | 1 |
| Perth Glory | Brisbane Strikers | 6 | 1 |
| South Melbourne | Wollongong Wolves | 2 | 3 |
| Adelaide United | Melbourne Knights | 2 | 1 |
| Football Kingz | Parramatta Power | 1 | 2 |
| Sydney Olympic | Northern Spirit | 1 | 0 |

**Round 17** ***(3–4 January)***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Parramatta Power | Newcastle United | 0 | 4 |
| Brisbane Strikers | South Melbourne | 1 | 0 |
| Perth Glory | Football Kingz | 4 | 0 |
| Northern Spirit | Marconi Stallions | 0 | 0 |
| Sydney United | Sydney Olympic | 0 | 0 |
| Wollongong Wolves | Melbourne Knights | 1 | 1 |

**Round 18** ***(7 January)***

| | |
|---|---|
| Brisbane Strikers | Adelaide United |
| Melbourne Knights | Football Kingz |
| Parramatta Power | Sydney United |
| Marconi Stallions | Sydney Olympic *deferred* |

**Round 19** ***(10–11 January)***

| | |
|---|---|
| Parramatta Power | Marconi Stallions *deferred* |
| Perth Glory | Sydney Olympic |
| Adelaide United | Newcastle United |
| Football Kingz | Wollongong Wolves |
| Northern Spirit | Melbourne Knights |
| South Melbourne | Sydney United |

**Round 20/6** ***(16–19 January)***

| | |
|---|---|
| Newcastle United | Brisbane Strikers |
| Wollongong Wolves | Northern Spirit |
| Marconi Stallions | South Melbourne |
| Perth Glory | Parramatta Power |
| Melbourne Knights | Sydney Olympic |
| Sydney United | Adelaide United |
| Wollongong Wolves | Football Kingz (r6) |

**Round 18** ***(21 January)***

| | |
|---|---|
| Perth Glory | Northern Spirit |

**Round 21** ***(23–26 January)***

| | |
|---|---|
| Adelaide United | Marconi Stallions |
| Brisbane Strikers | Sydney United |
| Melbourne Knights | Parramatta Power |
| Northern Spirit | Football Kingz |
| Sydney Olympic | Wollongong Wolves |
| South Melbourne | Perth Glory |

**Round 22** ***(31 January – 1 February)***

| | |
|---|---|
| Brisbane Strikers | Marconi Stallions |
| Football Kingz | Sydney Olympic |
| Parramatta Power | Wollongong Wolves |
| Perth Glory | Adelaide United |
| South Melbourne | Melbourne Knights |
| Sydney United | Newcastle United |

**Round 23/3** ***(6–8 February)***

| | |
|---|---|
| Adelaide United | South Melbourne |
| Marconi Stallions | Football Kingz |
| Parramatta Power | Brisbane Strikers |
| Perth Glory | Wollongong Wolves |
| Melbourne Knights | Adelaide United (r3) |
| Sydney Olympic | Newcastle United |
| Sydney United | Northern Spirit |

**Round 24** ***(13–15 February)***

| | |
|---|---|
| Football Kingz | South Melbourne |
| Wollongong Wolves | Adelaide United |
| Marconi Stallions | Sydney United |
| Perth Glory | Newcastle United |
| Melbourne Knights | Brisbane Strikers |
| Northern Spirit | Parramatta Power |

**Round 12** ***(18 February)***

| | |
|---|---|
| Perth Glory | Sydney United |

**Round 25** ***(20–22 February)***

| | |
|---|---|
| Adelaide United | Football Kingz |
| Newcastle United | Melbourne Knights |
| Brisbane Strikers | Wollongong Wolves |
| Parramatta Power | Sydney Olympic |
| South Melbourne | Northern Spirit |
| Sydney United | Perth Glory |

**Round 2** ***(25 February)***

| | |
|---|---|
| Adelaide United | Parramatta Power |

**Round 26** ***(29 February)***

| | |
|---|---|
| Football Kingz | Brisbane Strikers |
| Melbourne Knights | Sydney United |
| Northern Spirit | Adelaide United |
| Perth Glory | Marconi Stallions |
| Sydney Olympic | South Melbourne |
| Wollongong Wolves | Newcastle United |



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## will ex-pats still call australia home?

*Allan Crisp*

Will you still call Australia home? That is the question being asked of the ex-patriots currently playing with overseas professional clubs.

Frank Lowy wants our headline hitting Aussie stars to return to air their talents in the revamped national soccer league next season.

Some of the absent players have already indicated they would be willing to comply with the request, but no matter how successful the revised format may be, the public should be patient before rolling out the welcome mat.

Adelaide United president Basil Scarsella has pledged to remain loyal to the locals who have performed brilliantly in United's debut season.

However, should the likes of former South Australian players, Stan Lazaridis, Paul Agostino, Tony Vidmar or John Aloisi become available inside the next few seasons, the door would surely be thrown open.

Preceding that quartet many years ago were John Kosmina, Frank Farina, David Mitchell and Robbie Slater – players who were willing to share their wealth of experience in the country which gave them their soccer baptism.

Already, United captain Aurelio Vidmar, Carl Veart and Ross Aloisi have returned home after outstandingly successful careers with overseas clubs.

No Australian club would expect to lure limelight Socceroos Harry Kewell, Mark Viduka or Mark Schwarzer Down Under until the wage gap is bridged.

In searching for a star likely to boomerang back to Australia in the near future, the illustrious name, Stan Lazaridis, springs to mind.

Lazaridis was fondly known as "Stan The Man" when he played 71 National Soccer League games for West Adelaide Sharks over three memorable seasons.

He was kidnapped by West under the eyes of Adelaide City, who also earmarked the West Australian as a probable recruit.

Lazaridis, 31, first hit the headlines with the Australian Joey's squad in 1989. At the other end of the career scale he one of the three overage players with the Olyroos during the 2000 Olympics.

He amassed 46 "A" internationals and 11 other games for the Socceroos, before "Stan The Man" poetically strutted his stuff with West Ham and Birmingham on the tough professional UK football stage.

West Adelaide sold Lazaridis to West Ham for $650,000, before the flank attacker subsequently joined Birmingham in July of 1999, for a club record $3 million.

When on holidays, he regularly returns to Adelaide with his Adelaide–born wife and daughter Dior.

Lazaridis has a year remaining on his four-year contract with Birmingham, the club he helped gain promotion to the Premier League.

Ironically, it was Lazaridis, who contributed with a successfully taken third penalty to boost Birmingham to the shoot-out showdown win over Millwall, which ensured promotion.

Ironic, because the Blues, who paid $3.36 million for Lazaridis, had to fork out a further $1.4 million to West Ham to honour a promotion clause in his contract.

"That sounds a lot of money, but in the scheme of things it's not a lot because Birmingham City have just been given $110 million for making the Premier League," Lazaridis said.

The Socceroo laments that a slice of the money paid to West Ham must go to an administrator instead of his former club, the now defunct, West Adelaide.

"It would have been nice if West had still been around to get a share, but it was not to be," said Lazaridis, who has retained business interests and property in Adelaide.

He loves the high-octane atmosphere of the English Premier League, saying, "One week you're up against Dennis Bergkamp and the next you're lining up against David Beckham at Old Trafford," he said.

The steadfastly patriotic Lazaridis likes nothing better than donning the Green and Gold of Australia.

He has shared the disappointment of three unsuccessful World Cup campaigns with the Socceroos, but is desperate to be part of a fourth attempt.

Stan was so badly hurt by the defeat to Iran six years ago that he lay prostrate on the MCG turf for 20 minutes after the final whistle sounded.

He was eventually helped to his feet by a concerned policeman.

Currently, Lazaridis is sidelined for about a month with a groin injury, but the resilient utility player will doubtless display his usual toughness to be back in action in record time.

Allan Crisp joins former Socceroo Charley Villani on radio RPH (1197am) on Sundays 8.30am–9-30am and links with AUFC captain Aurelio Vidmar and United marketing guru Angelo Picca each Tuesday 7–9am.

Crisp also presents Adelaide United reviews and previews on Monday and Friday mornings on the RPH Morning Sports Show, hosted by Darryl Smith from 7am–9am.

### THE QUEST FOR ATHENS 2004 BEGINS THIS WEEK

The 2004 OFC Men's Olympic qualifying tournament will be held in two groups, A (hosted in Australia) & B (hosted in NZ), with the two group winners contesting a 'home and away' play–off to determine OFC's first ever direct qualifier to the Olympic Games football program. The men's football tournament at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games will be held 11–28 August 2004.

**Australia's fixtures: (Group A)**
14 Jan: v Samoa (Marconi Stadium, Sydney)
16 Jan: v PNG (Marconi Stadium, Sydney)
20 Jan: v Solomons (Marconi Stadium, Sydney)
22 Jan: v Fiji (Marconi Stadium, Sydney)

***Final play–off:* Group A winner v Group B winner**
26 Jan: 1st leg (held in Sydney if Aust. win Group A)
30 Jan: 2nd leg (location subject to group winner)

*Qualifying matches for the Olympic Games is subject to a under 23 age-limit. For the final Olympic tournament, up to three over-age players are permitted.*

Interestingly, the squad to contest the qualifying tournament consists of 12 Australian–based players, compared with just 2 Australian–based players who were selected for the 2000 Olympics.

The 20-man squad selected for the 2004 OFC Men's Olympic qualifying tournament is:

Goalkeepers
**Eugene Galekovic** – South Melbourne (Australia)
**Michael Turnbull** – Marconi Stallions (Australia)

Defenders
**Michael Beauchamp** – Parramatta Power (Australia)
**Shane Cansdell-Sherriff** – AGF Aarhus (Denmark)
**Jonathan McKain** – National Bucuresti (Romania)
**Ljubo Milicevic** – Thun (Switzerland) – CAPTAIN
**Jade North** – Perth Glory (Australia)
**David Tarka** – Nottingham Forest (England)

Midfielders
**Nick Carle** – Marconi Stallions (Australia)
**Anthony Danze** – Perth Glory (Australia)
**Spase Dilevski** – Rot Weiss Essen (Germany)
**Ahmad Elrich** – Parramatta Power (Australia)
**Anthony Pelikan** – Melbourne Knights (Australia)
**Wayne Srhoj** – Perth Glory (Australia)
**Carl Valeri** – Inter Milan (Italy)
**Luke Wilkshire** – Bristol City (England)

Forwards
**Alex Brosque** – Marconi Stallions (Australia)
**Ryan Griffiths** – Newcastle United (Australia)
**Brett Holman** – Excelsior (Netherlands)
**Dylan Macallister** – Northern Spirit (Australia)

### SIX SOUTH AUSTRALIANS IN 2004 AIS INTAKE

The strength of the SASI program was proven when one-third of the annual intake of 18 young players to the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) men's soccer program was selected from South Australia. All six South Australian boys came from the SASI program.

One especially noteworthy AIS scholarship holder is Adelaide United's own **NICK CROSSLEY**.

Congratulations to the six South Australians selected:
**Nick Crossley (Adelaide United)**
**Matthew Deegan (Blue Eagles)**
**Peter Eleftherakis (Adelaide City)**
**Sam Gounder (Panthers)**
**Michael Marrone (Para Hills)**
**David Thornton (Panthers)**

SA's intake is twice as many as the next highest states: Victoria and Queensland had three each, NSW and ACT two, and Tasmania one.


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## south aussies abroad

**JOHN ALOISI (former Adelaide City)**
SPANISH DIVISION ONE (PRIMERA LIGA)
04-01-04: started as Athletico Osasuna drew 1-1 away to Athletic Bilbao.

**STAN LAZARIDIS (former West Adelaide)**
ENGLISH FA BARCLAYCARD PREMIER LEAGUE
26-12-03: played a full game as Birmingham City won 2-1 at home against Manchester City.
28-12-03: played a full game as Birmingham City lost 1-0 away to Everton.
ENGLISH FA CUP - Third round
03-01-04: started but replaced due to a groin injury as Birmingham City won 4-0 at home against Blackburn Rovers; Stan will be sidelined for the next month.

**JOEL PORTER (former West Adelaide)**
ENGLISH FA CUP - Third round
03-01-04: came on in the 71st minute as Hartlepool United lost 1-0 away to Sunderland.
ENGLISH NATIONWIDE DIVISION TWO:
26-12-03: started as Hartlepool United lost 2-1 at home against Barnsley.
28-12-03: came on in the 70th minute and scored in the 79th minute as Hartlepool United won 2-0 away against Oldham Athletic.

**TONY VIDMAR (former Adelaide City)**
ENGLISH NATIONWIDE DIVISION ONE
26-12-03: played a full game as Cardiff City lost 1-0 at home against Walsall.
28-12-03: played a full game as Cardiff City lost 2-1 away to Watford.
ENGLISH FA CUP - Third Round
03-01-04: played a full game as Cardiff City lost 1-0 at home against Sheffield United.

## other aussies abroad

ENGLISH FA BARCLAYCARD PREMIER LEAGUE
28-12-03: Socceroos **Brett Emerton** and Lucas Neill both played full games with Emerton creating the winning goal in the 72nd minute as Blackburn Rovers won 1-0 away to Newcastle United.
28-12-03: Socceroo **Mark Schwarzer** (gk) played a full game while Australian Under 23 **Brad Jones** (gk) remained on the bench as Middlesbrough lost 1-0 at home against Manchester United.

ENGLISH NATIONWIDE DIVISION TWO
26-12-03: Australian Under 23 **Luke Wilkshire** played a full game & created both Bristol goals as Bristol City won 2-1 away to Brentford.

ENGLISH FA CUP - Third Round
03-01-03: Australian Under 23 **Brad Jones** (gk) played a full game and kept a clean sheet on his debut as Middlesbrough won 2-0 at home against Notts County. First choice keeper Mark Schwarzer was kept out of the starting eleven due to a sudden back injury and it is unsure as to how long he will be sidelined. Middlesbrough has been drawn away to current cup holders Arsenal in the next round.
04-01-03: Socceroo **Mark Viduka** played a full game and scored in the 8th minute as Leeds United lost 4-1 at home against Arsenal.

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE
03-01-04: Socceroo **Craig Moore** played a full game and received a yellow card as Rangers lost 3-0 away to Celtic.

*Information provided by the Australian Soccer Association.*

## british briefs

*John Thompson-Mills*

The most frantic month of the football season has arrived…or has it?

The much maligned transfer window {about to start the second of its two-year trial} is open and the British papers are full of speculation about what might happen.

But with many clubs struggling under the weight of huge or increasing debt, how many managers will really be able to open up the purse strings?

Not surprisingly, Fergie has been linked to number of players, the most substantial emerging in the shape of PSV Eindhoven starlet Arjen Robben, a 19 year old striker who is apparently seen as a long term replacement for Ryan Giggs. Robben was shown around the home of the prawn sandwich recently, and this has raised questions about the future of Diego Forlan who is said to be unhappy about the arrival of another rival for a place. Presumably that would also apply if one of the three other strikers linked with a move to Fergieland materialise. But it would seem that of those players, Jermaine Defoe {West Ham} is considered a bit risky due to his dodgy temper, {three red cards this season}, and Louis Saha {Fulham} is too expensive at 18 million pounds. That leaves Mark Viduka…but where's his head at?

Elsewhere:-

**Chelsea** are reportedly set to snap up Romanian defender Chivu from Roma and Roberto Ayala {Valencia}.

**Arsenal:** Samuel Et'to {Real Mallorca} and Juan Pablo Angel {Aston Villa}.

**Liverpool:** Djibril Cisse {Auxerre} in July. Cisse was at Anfield for a medical last week, and Marc Overmaars {Barcelona} in a swap for John Arne Riise.

**Newcastle:** James Beattie {Southampton} in January, Henrik Larsson in July, Alan Smith {Leeds United}.

**Birmingham City:** Robbie Keane {Spurs} 6 million pounds.

**Spurs:** Michael Brown {Sheffield United}--confirmed, Jason Koumas {West Brom} for 3 mill, plus Jay Jay Okocha {Bolton}.

**Blackburn:** Chris Sutton {Celtic} in July.

**Man City:** Paul Robinson {Leeds United}

**Celtic:** Steve Harper [gk] {Newcastle United}.

Regarding manager moves, Celtic boss Martin O'Neill insists reports linking him with a move to Liverpool are "totally & utterly untrue" and reports suggest Chelsea want Sven Goran Eriksson as their manager BEFORE Euro 2004.

But should the transfer window stay? Premiership-Nationwide League business is down 47% on pre-window days and with the crippling collapse of ITV Digital still being felt, there are loud calls for the system to be changed before more clubs get on the phone to the administrators.

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President, Leeds United Supporters Club, Adelaide branch

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## GET MOBILE II

*Parramatta Power v AUFC, Sydney, 21 Dec 2003*

The Stand would like to thank **Gordon Pickard** and **Fairmont Homes** for making **Get Mobile II** (Parramatta Stadium) possible. For many of us it was the highlight of the season so far and the weekend will live forever in our memories. Photos of the journey are available for viewing at www.standunited.org. It really was an amazing time.

## GET MOBILE III

*Melbourne Knights v AUFC, Melbourne 8 Feb 2004*

More details in coming weeks! Check the web site.

## NEW UNITED FAN

Congratulations to Stand members Wayne and Jane Amos and brand new United fan, baby Kieran. Jane was having contractions on the Friday of the Wollongong game and she thought that she might have to miss the game. However her doctor advised to her to go and enjoy the match, hoping that the drums, music and excitement might help move things along. Kieran certainly enjoyed the game, and he made his appearance a couple of days later. The whole Amos family with baby Kieran and big brother Lachlan (two) were all back for the next home game against Northern Spirit, celebrating the win with The Stand!

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And our Adelaide is rollin' along

In The Stand, hear us shout
We're UNITED, have no doubt
And our Adelaide is rollin' along

Let the nation see,
Our best Artillery,
Shout out our numbers loud n' strong
For where ever you go
You will always know
That United is rollin' along
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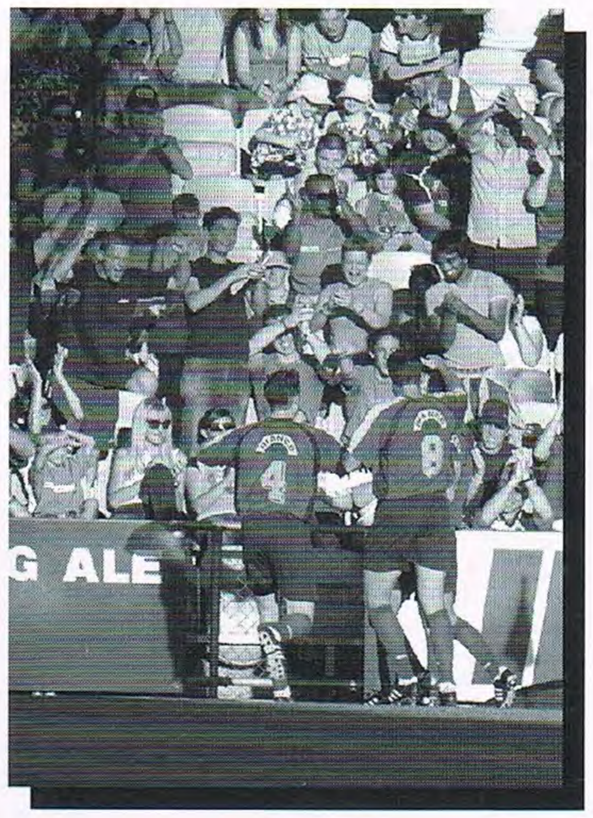

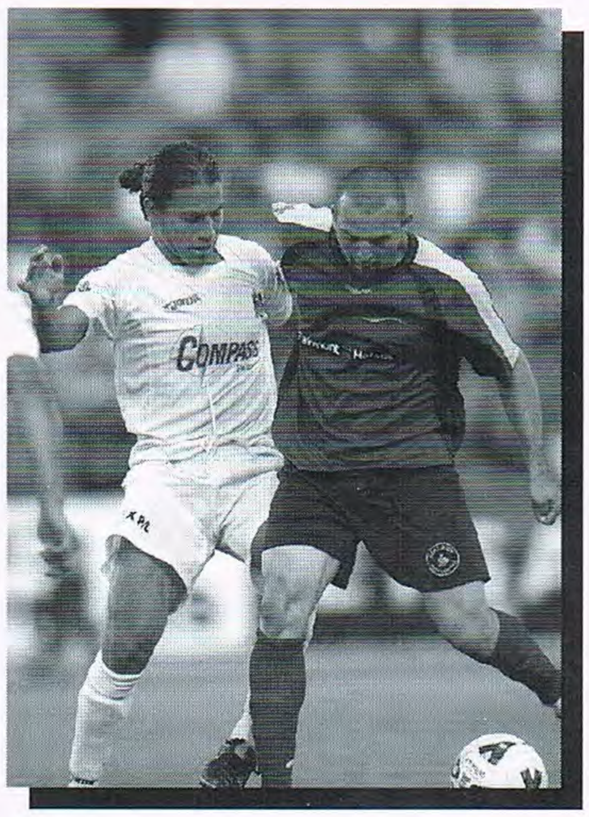

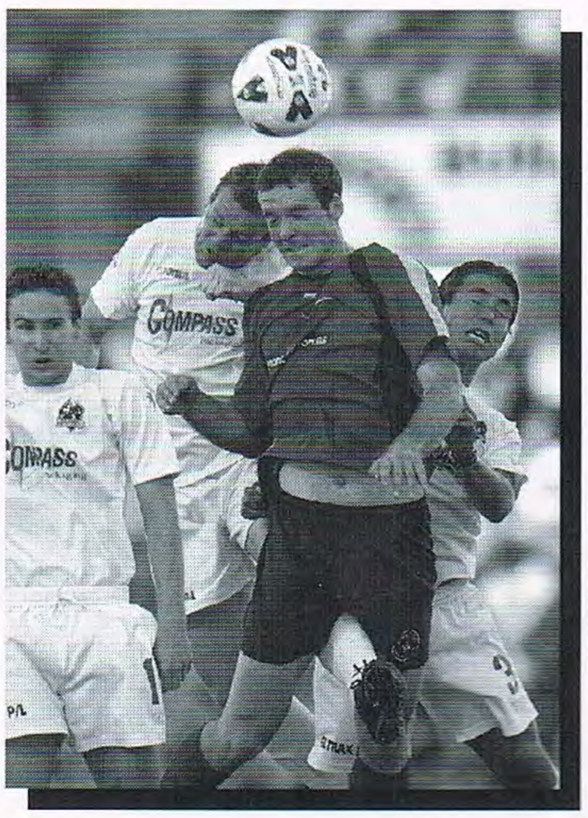

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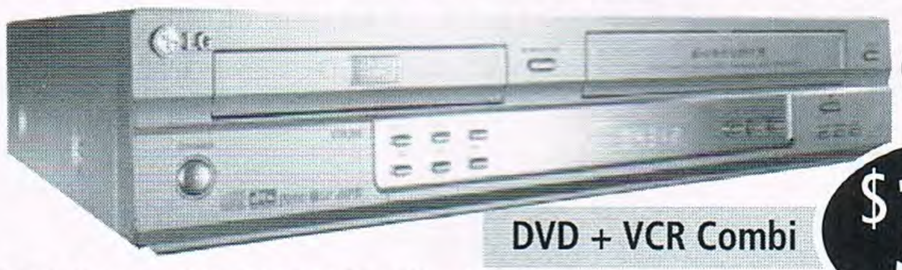

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